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TODAY

MAJOR: THE SLEAZE FACTOR

Anthony Seldon, who shadowed Major for three years, tells the inside story of the doomed campaign

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STARTING TOMORROW

JACQUELINE DU PRÉ: GENIUS AND BETRAYAL

She was one of the greatest musical talents of her generation – but her brilliance wreaked havoc on her family

Welfare reform plans are drawn up

Extra pension may be made compulsory

By Jill Sherman and Philip Webster

ALL workers could be obliged *to pay into a national fund to* finance nursing care for the elderly under radical welfare reforms being drawn up by the Government. People would also have to take out a compulsory second pension to top up the state provision.

The measures, along with greater use of private insurance to replace state benefits, *are being considered as part of* a programme that would transform the welfare state beyond all recognition — and legislation could be introduced as early as next year.

The proposals have been put forward by Frank Field, the minister instructed by Tony Blair to "think the unthinkable" on welfare reform. *And they provide the most* extensive detail so far of what the Prime Minister meant when he told the Labour conference on Tuesday that the Government's future role would be to "organise provision" for the elderly rather than fund it through higher taxes.

The pressure to act quickly *comes after increasing* concern about the number of people being forced to sell their homes to pay for nursing accommodation and with the recognition that the Exchequer cannot afford to raise state pensions even for the poorest groups.

A Royal Commission on long-term care is to be established *shortly — possibly next* week — and ministers are expecting it to back the radical proposals for compulsory contributions. Under the plan, National Insurance contributions *would be increased and* proportion of them paid into a mutual insurance company at arms length from the Government, which would provide cover for both residential and nursing home care. At present only one person in six needs such care, but all workers would have to pay into the fund from their first week of *employment.*

"The idea is that everyone contributes; they all hope they won't need it, but if they do, they will be covered for it by their own and others' contributions," a government source said.

On pensions, workers would be required to pay a percentage of their income *into a second scheme to supplement* the dwindling state provision so that most could retire on up to two-thirds of their final income. They would be allowed to pay more if they wished and would choose where their money was invested from a number of approved organisations and funds.

Labour had considered *making membership of such* schemes compulsory, but dropped that idea before the election for fear that it would be unpopular. Now compulsion is back on the agenda as ministers accept that may be the only way to ensure adequate provision as the elderly population grows.

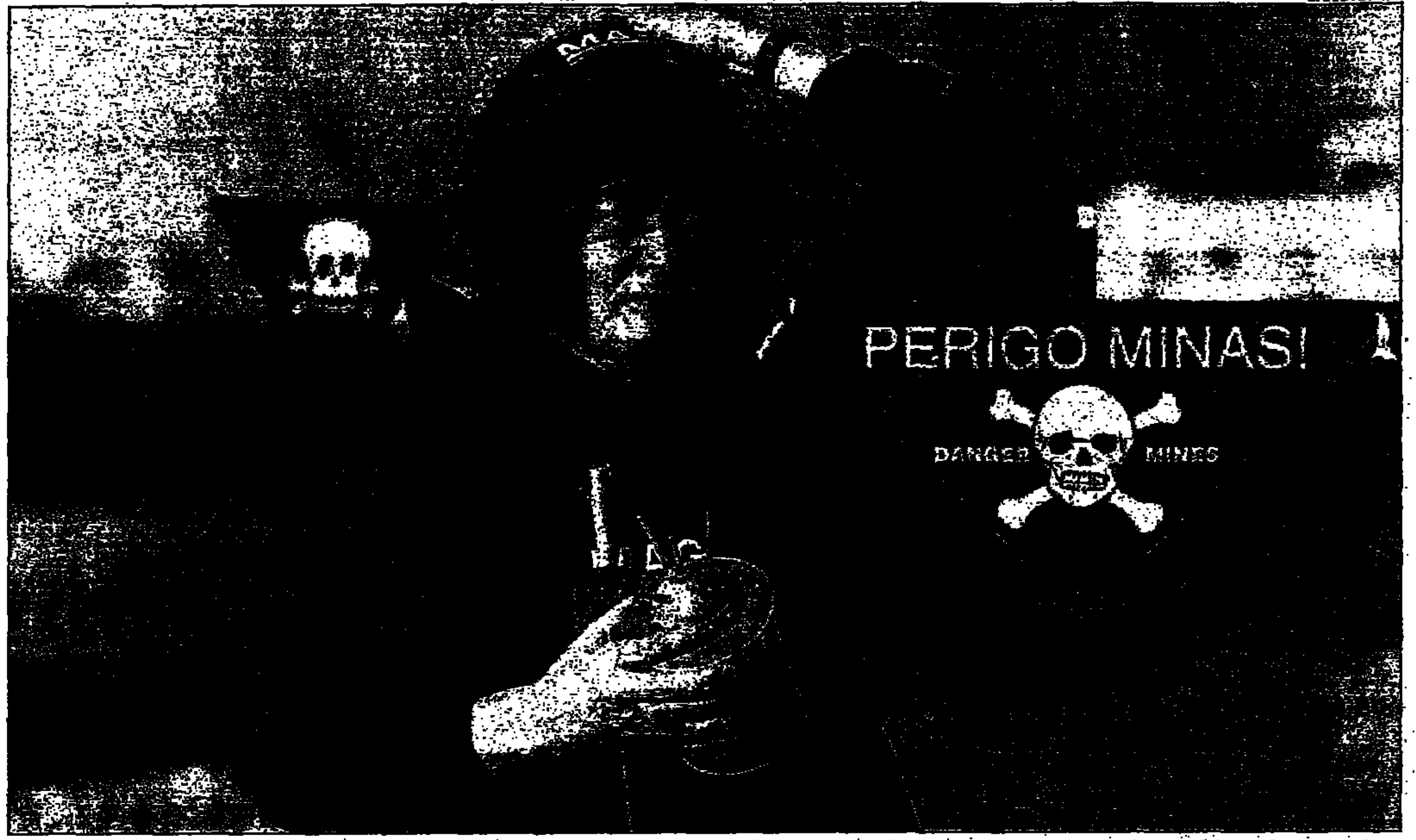
The plans for the second-tier *pension will be published* in a green paper in April and other welfare reforms are likely to be outlined in a green paper in January. That is expected to point to the scrapping of some *benefits — possibly industrial* injury, long-term sickness and disability benefits — in favour of personal insurance. The Prime Minister, who wants the most controversial measures to be presented to Parliament as soon as possible, is said to be taking a keen interest and members of the Downing Street Policy Unit *have been closely involved in* the early drafts.

Mr Field and his boss, Harriet Harman, may, however, face opposition from Gordon Brown, whose separate review on the merging of the tax and benefits systems could clash with their ideas. The Chancellor is said to be concerned about the costs of *Mr Field's overall programme* and it is believed that the minister has had to scale down some of his ideas.

He suggested as much at a conference fringe meeting yesterday when he said that having been told to think the unthinkable, he was now "trying to thing the workable and deliver it".

One area where there may be differences is on how to protect the poorest people who are unable to contribute to a second pension. One idea backed by Mr Field is that the taxpayer should contribute to savings for those who genuinely cannot work; he is also supporting plans to put state contributions into pension *funds for carers. But Mr* Brown is floating an alternative plan to give tax credits to those who look after sick relatives.

CHRIS HARRIS



Ms Short at Brighton, holding anti-personnel mines in front of a sign identical to those in Angola, where the Princess, below, had posed

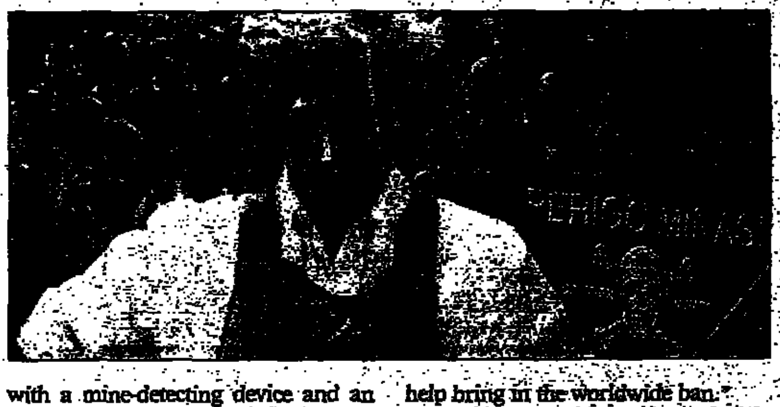
Short takes mine campaign to beach

By Damian Whitworth and Polly Newton

FOR the image-conscious politician photocalls can be a minefield. Fortunately Clare Short has never been unduly concerned about image. She found her minefield on Brighton beach yesterday.

The beach did not contain real mines. To publicise the Government's announcement that its commitment to *landmine clearance projects* is being doubled to £10 million a year, a patch of shingle had been strewn with dud anti-personnel mines and warning signs.

Ms Short, accompanied by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, posed for photographers. Then Ms Short put on body armour and a helmet and posed, holding two anti-*personnel mines, in front of a sign* identical to those in Angola which read "Perigo Minas!" (danger mines). Diana, Princess of Wales, had posed in front of such a sign. Ms Short posed with a mine-detecting device and an Amazonian stare looking like a cross between Dawn French, Diana Rigg in *The Avengers* and Robocop.



"People like me were already working on landmines, but the beautiful thing Princess Diana did was to take *the issue much more widely to people* and she speeded up the international commitment to get a worldwide ban," Ms Short said. "Everyone in the world who pays tribute to her owes it to her to help bring in the worldwide ban."

Speaking to the conference, Ms Short said efforts to clear the world of buried landmines must be speeded up. "At present rates it will take 1,000 years to clear the mines and they are maiming, killing and preventing a *return to their homes and lands for* some of the poorest people in countries such as Cambodia, Mozambique, Bosnia and very many others."

Labour and the Mines' Advisory Group which had organised the event insisted that there was no intention to recreate the imagery of the Princess's trip. But however well meant the photocall was, the effect was extraordinary. *Ms Short*, who has never put much store by slick Mandelson approach to style, will hardly be unduly worried. The net result — publicity for the campaign — was what the landmines campaigners had wanted for their cause.

Frank Ryding, a doctor who works with the Red Cross treating victims of landmines, described to delegates some of the appalling injuries he had seen in the last 17 years. "You just need to see one mine injury to realise that they are the most horrific of war injuries. I have seen a young boy with severe stomach injuries and a leg blown away above the knee by a mine. It took his father three days to *transport him in a wheelbarrow* through Afghan mountain passes to the nearest Red Cross hospital."

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Go-ahead likely for full BSE inquiry

By Philip Webster, political editor

A FULL inquiry into the origins and handling of the BSE crisis is expected to be launched by the Government shortly as fears grow that the magnitude of the disaster has yet to be disclosed.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, and Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, *are proposing an investigation* that will rival the Scott inquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair in its significance and scope.

It would have access to the papers of the last Government and former Tory ministers and officials who served them would probably be called.

While the number of cases of BSE is falling rapidly the economic, medical and legal ramifications will follow the Government into the next century, ministers believe.

And with the parents of children who died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) expected to begin legal *proceedings against the Government* over events that occurred under its predecessors, ministers bel-ieve that a inquiry must now establish the facts. It would be expected to recommend a policy for compensating families of victims.

Dr Cunningham has written to the Prime Minister and Mr Dobson proposing an inquiry: Mr Dobson and other health ministers fully back the idea and they hope Mr Blair will give the go-ahead soon. The issue has yet to be considered by the Cabinet.

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"It is me — I used to have long hair"

Pet laws may be relaxed by 1998

By the end of next year pet owners may be able to travel abroad with their animals without having to quarantine them on their return under proposals officially unveiled yesterday.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said at the Labour Party Conference in Brighton that it was one of the options that would be considered by an independent panel of scientists he is setting up to review anti-rabies controls

.... Page 4

Paint found on Diana's car 'came from Fiat Uno'

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

FRENCH police scientists have established that paint scrapes on the wreckage of the car in which Diana, Princess of Wales, and two others died came from a Fiat Uno, strengthening the theory that the Mercedes struck another vehicle before hurtling into a *concrete pillar.*

Police had earlier identified remnants of a Fiat Uno rear brake light among broken *glass from the Mercedes* headlamp about 30 yards before the point of impact in the road tunnel beneath the Pont de l'Alma.

Since then they have been working on the hypothesis that Henri Paul, the drunk driver of the Mercedes who died in the crash, lost control of the vehicle after hitting the back of a Fiat Uno.

Paint scrapes were found on a detached wing mirror from the Mercedes, discovered in *the tunnel; and along the front* right wing of the limousine. Spectograph tests on the paint by scientists at the National Police Institute for Criminal Research outside Paris are said to have shown that the marks were left by a Fiat Uno.

Police have not said whether the brake light shards and paint on the Mercedes are from the same car, but yesterday's *discovery has turned the* "second car" theory, previously thought a slim possibility, into the judicial investigation's *central focus. Several witnesses* have described seeing another car driving through the tunnel which sped away after the accident.

Paint scrapes taken from the right-hand side of the tunnel are also being tested, although the results have yet to be released.

The institute will be able to establish the year and place of *production of the Fiat.* Investigators have contacted garages across France to establish if a *Fiat Uno was taken in for* repair in the days after the crash.

While it is conceivable that the paint remnants were from an earlier scrape, it is unlikely that the Paris Ritz, which provided the vehicle, would have allowed the Princess and Dodi Fayed to be driven in a damaged car.

Yesterday Trevor Rees-*Jones, 29, the sole crash survivor*, was preparing to fly home to Britain today by helicopter *having been interviewed for a second time* by French investigators.

Mr Rees-Jones, a bodyguard working for Mohamed Al Fayed, has been able to recollect further details about the journey from the Paris Ritz, and "vaguely" recognised some photographs of paparazzi. However, he still has no memory of the crucial seconds before the crash, sources close to the investigation said.

Since the accident on August 31 he has been recovering *from severe face, chest and* head wounds at La Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital.

Curse puts fear of God into thieving clerics

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion correspondent

AFTER years of trying without success to stop clergymen stealing from his shelves, an antiquarian religious *bookseller has at last* stumbled on a solution which he claims is working — a 16th-century Spanish curse.

"For him that stealeth a Book from this Library, let it change into a serpent into his hand and rend him. Let him be struck with Palsy, and all *his Members blasted. Let him languish* in Pain crying aloud for Mercy and let there be no surcease to his Agony till he sink in Dissolution. Let Bookworms gnaw his Entrails in token of the Worm that dieth not, and when at last he goeth to his final Punishment, let the flames of Hell consume him for ever and aye."

Suddenly religious shoplifters have decided to go and sin no more. Two penitents have even sent back large parcels of books.

John Pendlebury, 34, owner of a second-hand bookshop in Stamford Hill, north London, said he had tried a *surveillance camera and confrontation*. He posted on his shelves copies of the eighth commandment, "Thou shalt not steal". But still the thefts continued.

On one day alone, he apprehended an Anglican priest and a rabbi stealing books from the Psalms section. On another occasion, an entire half shelf of books disappeared.

With thefts costing him hundreds of pounds a year out of a turnover of £60,000, Mr Pendlebury was stumped until a friend visited the monastery of San Pedro in Barcelona.

"He saw the curse in the monastery's *library and immediately* thought of me," Mr Pendlebury said.

He decided to try the curse and to his surprise the thefts ceased instantly.

"Theft has always been a *problem*," *he said*. "It is a common *problem* in all religious bookshops. For some odd reason it seems to be worse than in secular bookshops."

This might be because churches attracted sinners as well as saints, he suggested. More than half his customers are clerics.

"It is not meant to be an actual curse on anyone," he said. "It is rather meant to prod people's consciences. I *have not noticed any books at all* going missing in the last two or three months."

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Rhetoric on crime that's a law unto itself

MATTHEW PARRIS
CONFERENCE SKETCH

On May 1, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, told Labour delegates at Brighton yesterday, Britain's Government was transformed. He had just made the same speech that every Home Secretary has made at every party conference I can remember since I was young enough to be liable to one of Mr Straw's curfews on children.

On reflection, that remark is unfair. The speech was distinguishable (just) from those made by a number of Tory Home Secretaries. It was a shade more right-wing.

Faced with the choice between a neck massage by a lady on the Virgin Atlantic stand in the Exhibitors' Hall, and listening to Mr Straw, I opted for the Home Secretary. It proved the right decision, not because the speech was better than the massage, but because after the speech anyone whose heart was not made of glass needed therapy to massage away the pain.

This was not Straw's fault. The speech was well read and contained no surprises. It is just that the relationship between a Home Secretary and his speech at a party conference is different from that enjoyed by any other Cabinet minister.

Clare Short's speech as International Development Secretary, for instance, was very much her own: honest and original. She delivered her speech. But a Home Secretary's speech delivers its minister. It has a personality all its own, delegates expect it, it is stubbornly resistant to change and its elements are well known.

Mr Straw's speech had been there since before Mr Straw was born. Like a hand-me-down grey suit, kept until the boy fits, the Home Secretary's conference speech was waiting for him to grow up, lose the ideals of his youth and perfect the arts of political hackery. Yesterday he tried it on. It fitted perfectly.

Mr Straw was given a standing ovation for saying that crime was a very bad thing, that liberty demanded order, that it was a shame if women were afraid to go out of doors, that parents should take responsibility for their children, and that "too often" the police were powerless in the face of young thugs. Too often? How often would he like?

Turning to racial discrimination, he said there were "too many" glass ceilings. He did not say how many would be right. This "too often" and "too many" routine is the special mark of Home Secretaries' conference speeches and *Daily Telegraph* leading articles. Like the clink of ice in the gin and tonic at a golf club bar, "too often" heralds an opinion long on indignation and short on strategy.

A Home Secretary's speech, however, should contain one tiny novelty, a fresh carnation for the buttonhole. The speech which delivered Jack Straw yesterday had arranged for two exhibits in the form of Bev and Carole to be paraded for the audience to inspect.

These pleasant looking women were dragged in to tell delegates that, after Mr Straw had visited their housing estate in Newark, yobbery there had ceased. Nobody told us why. It appears the Home Secretary just whistled and the yobs went away.

Bev and Carole had come to thank him, and Labour. As, nervously, they read their lines, Jack Straw stood behind them with spectacles glinting, pleased and indulgent as a trendy vicar at a blessing.

Conference reports, page 8
John Lloyd, Matthew Parris and Philip Howard, page 20

CHRIS HARRIS

Lord Healey, the former Chancellor, celebrated his 80th birthday at the Labour Party Conference, although it occurred on August 30. He and Lady Healey held a party for 260 guests at the Grand Hotel in Brighton. Among the guests was the former party leader, Michael Foot, 84.

71-year-old to become Commons watchdog

By Valerie Elliott

Sir Patrick Neill

SIR Patrick Neill, QC, a 71-year-old father of six, has been chosen to succeed Lord Nolan as chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

The former Warden of All Souls College, Oxford, has been offered a three-year contract but was yesterday enjoying the last few days of a Mediterranean cruise with his wife Caroline. He will take over when Lord Nolan returns full-time to his duties as a law lord next month.

Colleagues described Sir Patrick as the epitome of respectability and uprightness. "He has a formidable intellect, but he is someone who has his feet in the real world. He is a tough, pragmatic man, not one of the unworldly intellectuals. He also has experience of top level administration."

There were some eyebrows raised in Whitehall that Mr Blair had chosen someone of 71 — Lord Nolan is 67. But one source said last night: "Sir Patrick is a very young 71 and it is a job that needs considerable experience."

School standards are no better, say researchers

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

STANDARDS of reading and mathematics in primary schools have failed to improve for a decade and the results of government tests are unreliable, according to a new report.

Researchers at Manchester University said their findings showed the billions of pounds spent on national testing was wasted and rejected the claims of successive Education Secretaries that standards were rising. Using identical tests for eight years, they found reading levels for 11-year-olds declined. There was no improvement in mathematics for children aged 7 and 11, or in reading at 7.

The researchers said their tests, which stayed the same from year to year, were more reliable than national curriculum tests which have changed in format over the years.

The findings suggest that improved marks in the government tests reflect easier questions or slacker marking. The findings threaten to undermine Tony Blair's ambitious target for 80 per cent of 11-year-olds to reach approved levels in English by 2002 and 75 per cent in mathematics. This summer, 11-year-olds recorded their best-ever grades with 62 per cent scoring the expected level in mathematics and 63 per cent in English.

Manchester University's mathematics research, published in *The Times Educational Supplement* today, was carried out with 4,000 7 and 11-year-olds by a team led by Julie Davies. It follows her literacy research, presented last month, that showed reading standards among 11-year-olds had fallen since the national curriculum was introduced and remained the same for seven-year-olds.

Ms Davies said the government targets were meaningless: "It will be easy to hit the numeracy targets: they will change the tests. If you monitor standards you have got to have the same test, but the administration and content of national curriculum tests have been changed."

Ms Davies uses a test supplied by the National Foundation for Educational Research but the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, which sets the government tests, said the Manchester tests were out of date, based on a small sample from one area and did not reflect what children were learning.

"Their tests are based on what was being taught in 1983, long before the introduction of the national curriculum, whereas our tests test what is being taught in the classroom," the QCA spokeswoman said.

She added: "We have refined the tests without changing the standard."

A spokesman for the Department for Education and Employment said: "This year's test results confirm the targets for 2002 are ambitious but achievable."

Education, page 37

Deal will speed removal of incompetent teachers

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

INCOMPETENT teachers could be removed from the classroom within a month, rather than waiting up to two years for current procedures to take effect, under a landmark agreement reached between unions and employers yesterday.

The breakthrough will pave the way for legislation to be introduced next month, fulfilling the Government's pledge to speed up dismissal procedures. A parallel agreement is to be negotiated for head teachers and their deputies.

Under the new arrangements for classroom teachers, staff would be given a formal warning if they failed consistently to perform their duties to a "professionally acceptable standard". They would then have two terms to improve before facing dismissal.

But the agreement says: "Undue delay may not always be in the interest of all parties. In extreme cases, where the education of pupils is jeopardised, the period given for improvement after the date of a formal warning will be no more than four weeks."

The swift removal of incompetent teachers has been one of the main themes of the Prime Minister's policy of "zero tolerance of failure".

Head teachers and governors have complained that dismissal procedures which took up to two years were hampering their efforts to raise standards.

When the procedures are introduced next year, schools will be expected to record the nature of teachers' deficiencies and arrange a formal recorded interview to discuss them. Teachers under scrutiny will be set targets for improvement and offered support by their school and local education authority.

BSE inquiry

Continued from page 1

There will be urgent discussions over the next few weeks over the form of the inquiry. At least five options will be considered, including a full judicial inquiry, a royal commission, and a tribunal of inquiry.

A senior ministerial source said last night: "We owe it to the children who have died as a result of this tragedy to come up with the full facts."

Hitherto, the priority of both the previous and the present Government has been to get the beef ban in Europe lifted. There were fears that a long drawn-out inquiry that would highlight disturbing facts about how the crisis unfolded over a decade might have prompted new fears among Britain's partners.

However, ministers now believe that it should not be delayed much further. They want the inquiry to be authoritative and public, but to take place over a relatively short period.

Relatives of victims have been pressing for an independent inquiry. The parents of Stephen Churchill, the 19-year-old who in 1995 was the first to die of a new strain of CJD are heading a families association which is pushing for a an investigation and compensation.

Mrs Dorothy Churchill has said of an inquiry: "The relatives of the victims deserve that if nothing else."

Meanwhile Dr Cunningham has submitted new proposals to Brussels for the lifting of the ban.

He told the Labour Party conference in Brighton that he was asking that meat from all cattle born after August 1, 1996, should be exempt from the ban.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sinn Fein invited on Question Time

The BBC has invited Sinn Fein to appear on *Question Time* for the first time in the programme's 18-year history.

The Ulster Unionists threatened to boycott the programme after it emerged that Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness or another senior member of Sinn Fein would be asked to participate alongside Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, in a debate chaired by David Dimbleby.

They criticised the BBC's decision to allow Sinn Fein to appear and offer opinions on a programme which would debate issues other than the peace talks as "overstepping the mark".

NHS fees urged

The British Medical Association is asking the Government to consider charging NHS patients for hospital stays and GP visits. Sandy Macara, the chairman, said some hospitals were having to turn away all but emergency cases and that £500 million was needed to avert a funding crisis this winter.

Hunt ban stays

The National Trust's ruling council decided last night that a ban on deer-hunting on its land would remain in place. The decision followed the advice of a High Court judge who said the trust's original decision, passed unanimously in April, had been rushed and taken without consultation.

Nurse appeals

Lawyers for Lucille McLauchlan, the British nurse convicted of complicity in the murder of the Australian nurse Yvonne Gilford, lodged an appeal against her sentence of 500 lashes and eight years in jail. Deborah Parry, 38, from Alton, Hampshire, is still waiting for the court to deliver its verdict.

Hip fractures

Smoking causes one in eight hip fractures in older women, doctors have discovered. Not only are smokers more likely to fall over, but their bones become more brittle and likely to break, the team from St Bartholemew's Hospital in London found after studying nearly 3,000 women who had broken their hips.

Attacker held

Lee Pommell, 20, of Acton, West London, who repeatedly stabbed Timothy Becket, 47, while accomplices stole his £10,000 watch, was sent to a young offenders' institute for 13 years. He had denied, at Isleworth Crown Court, charges of robbing and wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Hospital blackout

The Royal Free Hospital at Hampstead, North London, had to rely on batteries and hand-worked generators to maintain incubators and life-support systems for 45 minutes after a double power failure. A cable fault cut electricity supplies and then emergency generators and telephones broke down.

Global soap

Notting Hill has been chosen by the BBC as the setting for its new World Service soap opera. *Westway*, which will be heard by 35 million listeners across the globe, is designed to reflect "everyday British life". The area of northwest London has been chosen because of its multicultural community.

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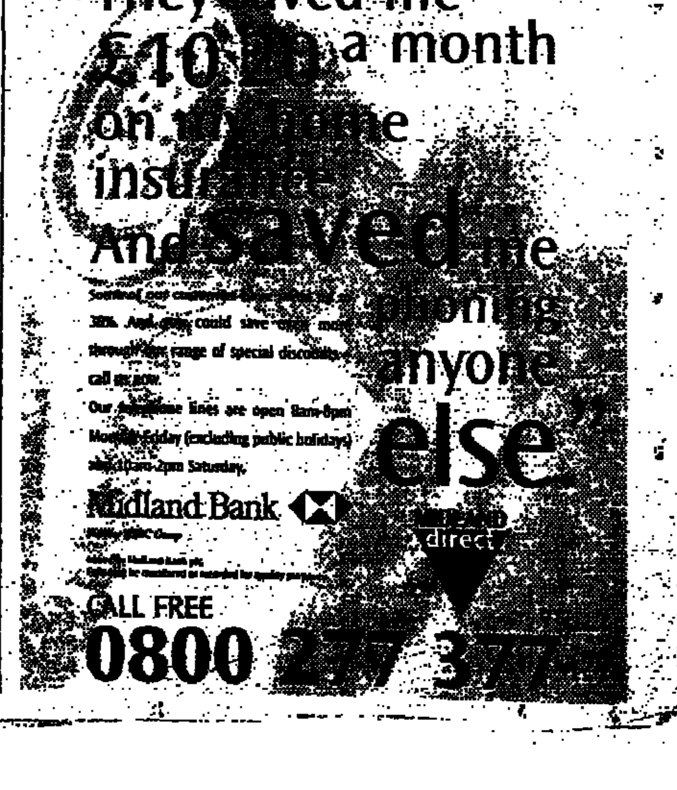

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Police face prosecution over custody death

Coroner in unlawful killing case calls for a review of the use of CS gas by police in restraining suspects. **Lin Jenkins** reports

Ibrahima Sey

A CORONER called yesterday for an urgent review of the use by police of CS gas in restraining suspects after a jury found that a Gambian asylum-seeker who died in custody had been unlawfully killed.

Ibrahima Sey, 29, was held in a bear-hug, had his hands handcuffed behind his back, was forced into a prone position on the floor and had his face sprayed with CS gas at Ilford police station, East London, after he was arrested for a domestic incident in May last year.

An inquest jury at Snaresbrook Crown Court found by a majority of seven to two that he died of restraint asphyxia and excited delirium and was unlawfully killed.

Last night the Crown Prosecution Service said that police officers involved in Mr Sey's death could face prosecution. A spokeswoman said that the file would be reopened and a review carried out by a new lawyer who has not dealt with the case before. He would study new evidence presented by the family's pathologist at the inquest and would take counsel's advice on any possible charges.

The incident was initially investigated by a team from Hertfordshire police under the command of Frank Wilkinson, the Deputy Chief Constable. In July, the CPS decided not to bring charges after concluding that there was not enough evidence to produce a realistic chance of convictions. It also said the case would be reviewed in the light of the inquest.

The four-week inquest heard evidence from five pathologists and 29 police officers. Mr Sey, a former Gambian under-25 footballer, was arrested after his wife, Amie, jumped out of a first floor window when he began throwing things.

Police found him holding his baby daughter, Ramatulay, and persuaded him to leave the flat in Manor Park, East London. Up to eight police officers were involved in restraining the 6ft 3in, 18 stone Mr Sey.

Harold Price, the coroner, said the verdict reflected "growing public concern" in relation to the way people were restrained by police. He said: "The use of CS spray should be reviewed by all police forces and there is an urgent need for research into the use of all CS gas and for the combined effect when used with MIBK." MIBK is the solvent used with CS gas in a spray can.

He said he questioned the wisdom of using it in cases of excited delirium — a mental illness where a sufferer shows physical signs of extreme exhaustion, leaving him vulnerable to further respiritory difficulties when restrained. "Excited delirium should be treated as a medical emergency and the person taken to the nearest accident and emergency department." He called on all police forces to review their methods of restraint.

Raju Bhatt, the family's lawyer, said that Mr Sey was "rendered unable to breathe. The effects of his mental illness rendered him vulnerable to the restraint that killed him."

He added: "Nobody has been able to eliminate the possibility that the use of CS gas contributed to his breathing difficulties."

In a statement, the Association of Chief Police Officers, which introduced the use of the CS sprays, said that guidelines on all forms of restraint had been revised in the past two years. John Orr, Chief Constable of Strathclyde and president of the association, said that he was suspending trials of CS sprays in Easterhouse and Dundee "until a thorough evaluation can be made of all the facts".

Scotland Yard said the Metropolitan Police deeply regretted the death and the distress caused to the family of Mr Sey.

Graduate 'killed after getting into wrong car'

By Russell Jenkins

A UNIVERSITY graduate was murdered after getting into a car she thought was a taxi after a night out with friends, a court was told yesterday.

Rachel Thacker, 21, who was about to start work as an occupational therapist, wanted to return to student rooms in Salford after celebrating a friend's 21st birthday in central Manchester. But she was kidnapped and driven to a pub car park in Ardwick Green, an inner-city area, where her murderer smashed her head with a breeze block because she refused to submit to a sexual assault. He then set fire to her.

Thacker: thought car that stopped was taxi

Her naked and charred body was found the next day on August 11, 1996, near the George and Dragon pub, Manchester Crown Court was told. Duncan Bermingham, 32, unemployed, of Longsight, Manchester, denies murder.

Ms Thacker, of Chase Terrace, Staffordshire, had been drinking in a number of bars with her friends, ending up in a fashionable bar in Manchester's "gay village".

Peter Openshaw, QC, for the prosecution, said that several incidents suggested she may have been drinking unwisely. At one time she tried to get into a Jeep that was stuck in traffic, thinking it was a taxi. She was becoming "loud, drunk and tiresome".

At 12.30am Ms Thacker attempted to flag down various cars, apparently in the belief that they were taxis. A battered red Ford Sierra stopped. Mr Openshaw said: "In spite of advice from her friends that the car was not a taxi, Rachel Thacker got into the car. The car then drove off with her on board and the passenger door still open. She was never seen alive again."

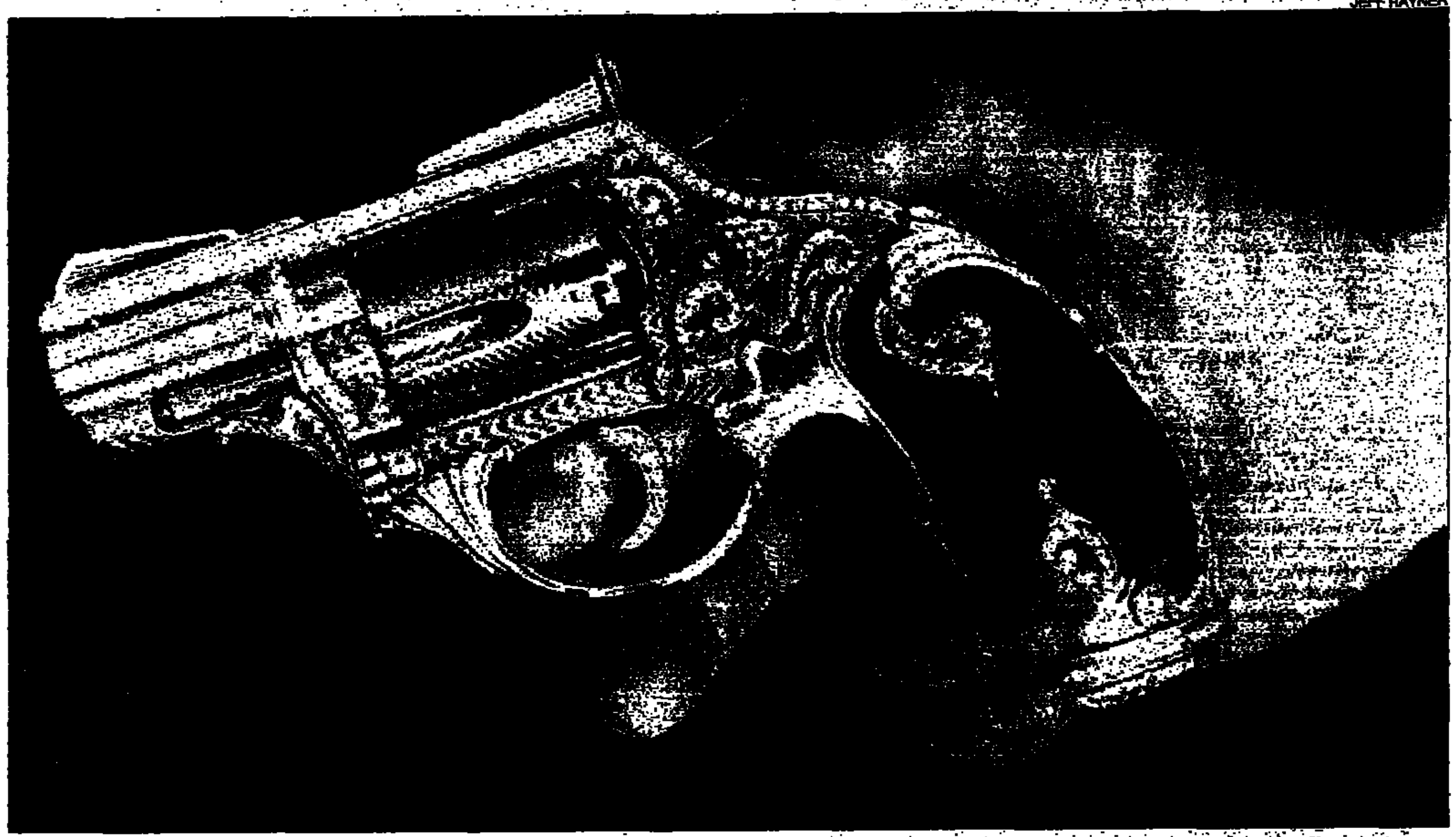
Mr Openshaw said that next day a passer-by saw her naked body lying on some broken pallets and breeze blocks at the back of the George and Dragon. "There was a bloodstained breeze block nearby. There was no evidence of rape having been completed but you may think it self-evident there was a sexual assault. The body had scorch marks and the area smelt of petrol."

Mr Openshaw told the court that on the night of the murder Mr Bermingham, who had recently broken up with his partner, had borrowed the Ford Sierra from a friend and failed to return it. The car was traced by police from a detailed description given to them by Ms Thacker's friends.

Mr Openshaw said that samples taken from under Ms Thacker's fingernails matched a DNA sample of Mr Bermingham's hair, leading to the inevitable and irrestible conclusion that he was the killer.

The trial continues.

JEFF RAYNER



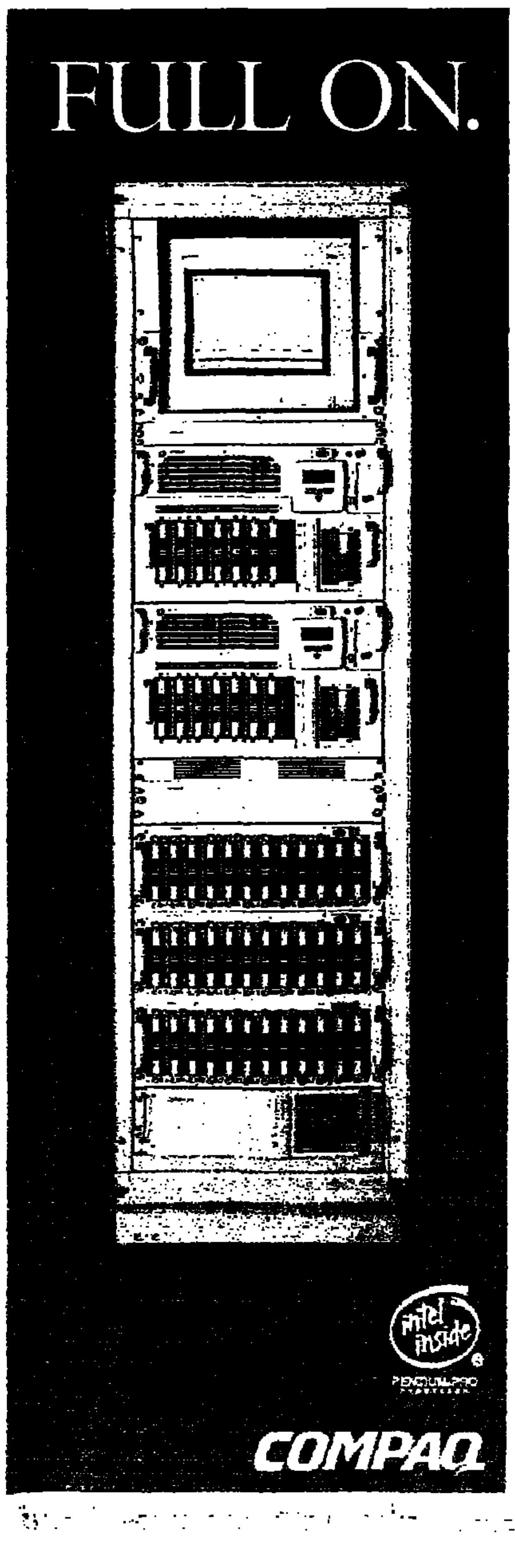
The .357 Smith and Wesson revolver, with diamonds studded on white gold and platinum, that was handed in to Horsham police station

£65,000 diamond gun is bang on time

A MAN handed in a £65,000 diamond-encrusted revolver at a police station hours before the deadline for giving up handguns expired.

The 7in .357 Smith and Wesson revolver, with diamonds embedded in white gold and platinum, was the last gun to be surrendered at the police station at Horsham, West Sussex, on Tuesday night. Police said the owner, who does not want to be identified, was a craftsman who had turned the gun into a collector's piece. It was in a small case with a valuation note from the jeweller Asprey. A Home Office spokesman confirmed that, under the Government's compensation scheme, the owner was entitled to be reimbursed with the full value of the gun.

Sergeant Robin Pine, who received the gun, said that the man had handed in 12 others before taking out the final one. "I have never seen anything like it," he said. "The whole thing was encrusted with diamonds. I thought the owner would be devastated to part with it, but he said he had made 24 similar guns that had been sold to the Middle and Far East and he had promised himself he would not make any more."



Student 'urged friend to join in group sex'

By Tim Jones

A STUDENT who claims she was raped by six army officers twice telephoned her friend in an effort to persuade her to take part in group sex, a court was told yesterday.

"She was trying to persuade me to go down and have group sex but I said no and would not budge," the 27-year-old witness said. "She had another crack at trying to get me involved, trying to put pressure on me, but I was not interested," she added.

Under cross-examination the woman said that during the calls the 24-year-old alleged victim had told her she had had sex with two officers on May 17, just 10 days before the alleged rape.

She said: "She told me she had had sex with Lieutenant Rupert Whiting, Nick Oettinger, and Phil Bates was also present but she said he could not take part. She told me that the sex was with her consent."

The woman told Oxford Crown Court that she went to visit the alleged victim on May 27 and the subject was again raised by the student in the pub as the pair were drinking with the Army officers. She said Mr Oettinger was also pestering her to have group sex but she told him she was not interested.

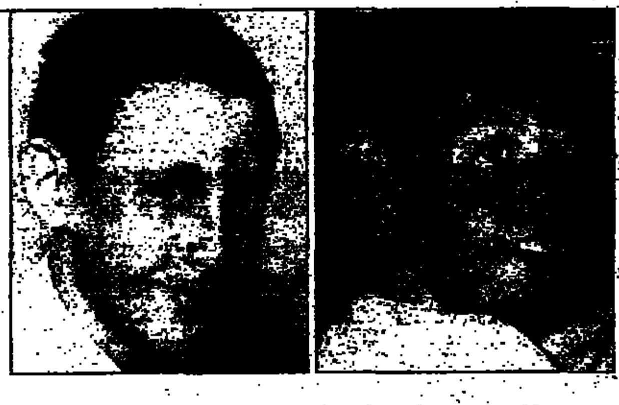
She told the jury: "Towards the end of the evening, Nick Oettinger said 'Are we going to have some fun later?' and I said 'No.' He said it about three or four times during the day. Going by my friend's conversation, he was after group sex. I was not interested in that."

Earlier the court had heard that the witness had gone for a sauna at the college with the alleged victim and seven naked officers before leaving to have sex with Lieutenant Whiting in the shower and later in his room. She said she went past the sauna on her way to Lieutenant Whiting's room after the shower and asked her friend, who was still in the sauna, whether she was all right. "She said 'yes I'm fine' but it was very muffled. I asked her again if she was sure she was all right and someone said she was fine."

Hours later she had been woken up by her friend banging on the door. "I opened the door and my friend was crying. She looked absolutely scared and terrified and was sobbing. She said 'I have been raped by these bastards.'"

Captain Ian Barlow, 29, Captain Philip Bates, 26, Lieutenant Darren Bartlett, 24, Lieutenant Matthew Tupling, 24, and officer cadets Nicholas Oettinger, 20, and Andrew Stout, 20, all deny raping the woman in May last year.

The trial continues.



Ricky Smith, left, and Mark Ashcroft, the dead boys

Boys hit by train were stoning car

By Paul Wilkinson

TWO schoolboys were hit by an express train as they fled from the driver of a car they were pelting with stones, an inquest was told yesterday. The two failed to see the trans-Pennine train bearing down on them at 70mph as they escaped over the main line at Halton in Leeds.

Ricky Smith, 15, and Mark Ashcroft, 13, who both lived locally, died almost instantly on Easter Sunday this year.

Wayne Green, their companion, said in a statement to the inquest at Wakefield: "We were mucking about in a park when we decided to go to the railway lines. We climbed up the embankment and saw a bus coming, so we got some stones and threw them at it.

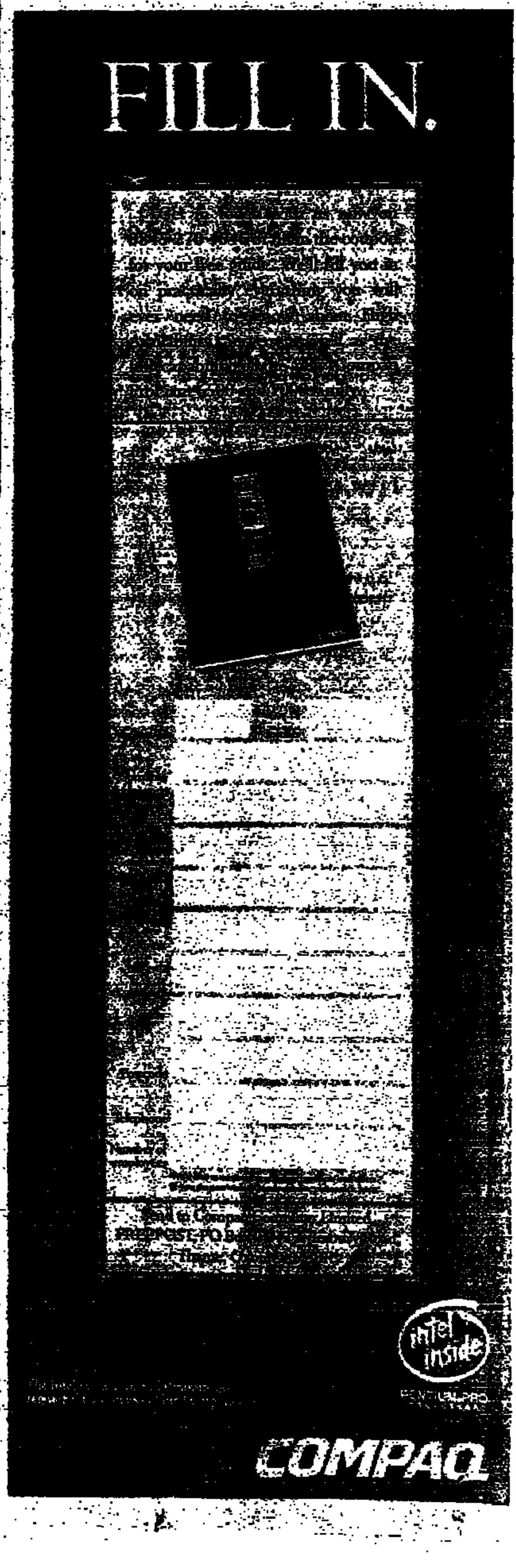
"We ran away but went back later and threw some more stones at another bus. But we missed it and hit a car by accident. Ricky and Mark ran off up the track. Then I saw a train coming and I stayed where I was. I shouted to them to watch out, but they had their backs to me and couldn't hear. I saw it hit them and it threw them in the air."

Derek Payne, the train driver, said in a statement: "I had slowed down to 70mph and I saw two youngsters who leapt into the path of the train. I could not get out of the way and there was a tremendous bang when the train hit them."

David Hinchliffe, the West Yorkshire Coroner, said: "These youngsters were doing nothing more than playing and larking about, but paid the ultimate price." The jury returned verdicts of accidental death.

Later Ricky's mother, Wendy, said: "I would like to think that people will hear about this and make sure their kids stay away from railway lines."

A Railtrack spokesman said: "Since the accident we have spent £20,000 to put up fencing in this area."



Tissue stored for boy's future

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

DOCTORS took tissue yesterday from a two-year-old boy facing treatment which will leave him sterile, ready to store it for the next 20 years in the hope that it will one day enable him to have children.

It was taken during an operation to prepare the boy, Oscar von Memerty, for the bone marrow transplant which is his only chance of overcoming the rare inherited metabolic disorder from which he and his sister, Valeska, 5, both suffer. The two children were brought by their parents from South Africa for treatment at the Manchester Children's Hospital.

The bone marrow transplant involves chemotherapy which will sterilise Oscar, but doctors hope that eventually it will be possible to reinject the testicular tissue to make him able to father his own children one day. The experimental technique is being researched by Simon Fishel, a genetic biologist who was part of the team that succeeded in producing the first test tube baby 20 years ago and who now runs a fertility clinic in Nottingham.

Oscar's father, Ian, said last night: "We are very grateful to Mr Fishel for his work and his attempts to give patients who undergo chemotherapy and irradiation a chance at fertility."

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Cunningham may let pets travel abroad by end of 1998

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

BY THE end of next year pet owners may be able to travel abroad with their animals without having to quarantine them on their return — for the first time in nearly a century — under proposals officially unveiled by the Agriculture Minister yesterday.

Jack Cunningham said it was one of the options that would be considered by an independent panel of scientists he is setting up to review anti-rabies controls. Dr Cunningham, a dog lover, told the Labour Party conference in Brighton: "It is time to take a fresh look at our quarantine laws. But any new system must be at least as effective in protecting the British people as the system we have had in place for most of this century."

The panel, to be headed by Ian Kennedy, Professor of Health Law, Ethics and Policy at University College London, will consider everything from maintaining the status quo to abolition of quarantine for all pets, regardless of origin.

But the option Dr Cunningham is thought to favour would involve scrapping quarantine only for pets moving between Britain and other countries in the European Union and the European Free Trade Association, plus a few other countries deemed to be rabies-free, such as Australia and New Zealand.

Animals from these countries would be allowed in provided they were accompanied by documents showing they had been vaccinated against rabies and blood-tested (to prove the vaccine had taken) and could be identified by an implanted microchip.

The identity and paperwork of pets would be checked by qualified vets at ports of entry or at inland reception centres. The checks might include confirmatory blood tests. Any animals that failed would have to go into quarantine. Otherwise they would be released the same day.

Cunningham: ordered review of existing rules

Some 300,000 of Britain's six million domestic dogs already carry microchips, which have unique identity numbers. Vets charge up to £30 for implanting them. About 180,000 of the country's seven million cats are microchipped.

The scientific panel would not be expected to make its recommendations before early 1998, according to a discussion document released by Dr Cunningham. There would then be a further few months of public consultation. Any new arrangement would not begin before the second half of 1998.

Peter Davies, Director-General of the RSPCA, said: "We are delighted that the system of quarantine is to be reviewed and that this will include a full risk assessment so that the safety of any system which might replace quarantine is properly assessed."

The review was also welcomed by Passports for Pets, the strongest pressure group campaigning for reform, which is run by Lady Fretwell, the wife of a former British Ambassador to France. "I am delighted and hope that we will now see early reform of an outdated and unkind system," she said.

Lady Fretwell's group has 4,000 members, including Chris Patten, the former Governor of Hong Kong, Lady Annabel Goldsmith, Elton John and the novelists Jilly Cooper and Barbara Taylor Bradford. Baron Donoughue, one of Dr Cunningham's junior ministers, is also a member of the group, and Viscount Rothermere, the owner of the *Daily Mail*, is a member of its committee of honour. The group spent £120,000 last year on publicising its cause.

The scientific panel is expected to look closely at Sweden, which switched from quarantine in mid-1994 to a system based on vaccination and blood tests.

Susanne Eliasson, who administers the controls for the Swedish Board of Agriculture, said: "We have not found any problems with the new system, even though the number of dogs entering the country has risen from 300 a year to around 12,000 since quarantine was relaxed."

Britain has had quarantine since 1901. Apart from the Republic of Ireland, no other country in the EU now requires quarantine. No one has died from locally contracted (rabies in Britain since 1903, nor in any other EU country since the late 1920s, even though rabies is still quite common in wild and domestic animals in mainland Europe.

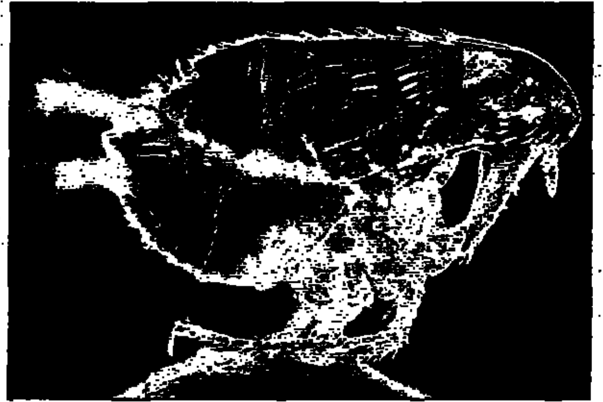
The fox strain of rabies found in Europe does not seem to affect human beings. However, the discussion document says it is a major concern that, if the rabies virus were to enter Britain, it "could establish a reservoir of infection in foxes which would be extremely hard to combat", particularly in view of the high number of urban foxes.

Owners of quarantine kennels called yesterday for compensation if the law were changed. Michael Wykeham, who runs a kennels at Salisbury, Wiltshire, said: "It would be brutal if the Government simply pulled the rug out from under people who have invested their life savings in providing these facilities."

CHRIS ISON

Emma Neal at the vets' surgery in Shepton Mallet where she found the prize-winning badger flea, below

Animal nurse wins holiday in flea-for-all



A VETERINARY nurse has won £1,000 of holiday vouchers as the first prize in a national competition to find the rarest flea.

Emma Neal, 29, who works at a practice in Shepton Mallet, Somerset, sent a flea found on a dog at the surgery to the judges stuck between sticky tape.

It did not look much but it turned out to be the badger flea, three times bigger than the more common pests and far more prized by experts. Mrs Neal said: "I was just giving a labrador the usual once-over and I found one flea that looked a bit big. It is a weird way to win a holiday."

Flea-hunting enthusiasts all over Britain captured a total of 332 specimens but the badger flea was judged the rarest and finest specimen.

The competition was organised by the flea powder maker Novartis to help John Maunder, of the Cambridge Medical Entomology Centre, with his research. He said yesterday that it was the first time a badger flea had been found on a dog.

"This competition helps us find out what fleas are on pets and how many." The problem, he explained, is that half of adult human beings do not react to fleas, so assume their pets are clear of them. "This is bad news for cats and dogs as their fleas go unnoticed."

A hedgehog flea won a Coventry dog owner a weekend country hotel break, while a rabbit flea earned the finder a video recorder. There was good news for human beings, however. Arlo Guthrie, organiser of the Flea For All competition, said: "Originally the first prize was going to go to the person who sent in a human flea. But none were found so it has gone to the badger flea finder instead."

IN BRIEF

Town in mourning for four fishermen

Coastguards yesterday called off the search for survivors from the trawler *Sapphire*. Adam Stephen, 29, Robert Stephen, 25, Bruce Cameron, 32, and Victor Podlesny, 45, all from Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, are thought to have died aboard the 76-tonne vessel, which capsized and sank in rough seas 20 miles east of the port. The skipper, Victor Robertson, 27, survived after jumping through a wheelhouse window and being winched from a liferaft by an RAF helicopter.

Libel donation

The film director Michael Winner accepted a £1,000 donation to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund in settlement of a libel action against the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea over an unjustified legal notice about unpaid rates.

Solicitor barred

The Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal struck off Keith Wilson, 55, of Aldham, Essex, formerly of Jackson and Partners, Colchester, for misappropriating £31,000 from two widowed clients and arranging a couple's will so as to inherit their house.

Army dismissal

Lieutenant George Moles, a Territorial Army instructor for the cadet force of the Queen's Own Highlanders in Dingwall, Highland, has been dismissed in disgrace by a court martial for indecently assaulting a 15-year-old girl cadet.

Lottery cheat

John Hardy, a lottery collector who admitted stealing £836 from his 32-man works syndicate in Langley Mill, Derbyshire, was jailed for six months by magistrates at Ilkeston. One of the lines he failed to pay for would have won £50,000.

Sandpit death

A digger driver died when his machine fell into a flooded sandpit near Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. The body of George Whittaker, 60, of Bradwell, Norfolk, was recovered from the gravel workings after a three-hour search by divers.

Windy benefit

The village primary school at Cassop, near Durham, is to benefit from its windswept position by generating its own electricity. A 50ft-high wind turbine, to be set up early next year in its grounds, will provide all its power needs, apart from heating.

Harrison Ford

A report ("Action man wrote off the draft", June 13) stated that Harrison Ford had posed as a conscientious objector to avoid the Vietnam war. In fact, Mr Ford's objection was sincere and principled, and we regret the error.

£31m homes-for-votes fine was unfair, claims Porter

By Alexandra Frean, Local Government Correspondent

THE decision to impose a record £31 million fine on Dame Shirley Porter and five former colleagues from Westminster City Council for their alleged role in the "homes for votes" affair was both ludicrous and unfair, the High Court was told yesterday.

Anthony Scrivener, QC, acting for the former Tory council leader, said that John Magill, the district auditor who had surcharged Dame Shirley and her colleagues, had acted improperly and had "misconceived the role of politics in local government" when conducting his investigation.

Dame Shirley and her former colleagues hope to overturn the surcharge, which was imposed on them in May last year after Mr Magill said they were guilty of "wilful misconduct" and "disgraceful and improper gerrymandering" between 1987 and 1989. He found that they used the right-to-buy scheme to sell council houses in marginal Tory wards at knock-down prices to people who were more likely to vote Conservative.

The outcome of the case could have far-reaching implications for the future regulation of local government and could influence Government thinking on whether to implement the recommendations of Lord Nolan's report on standards of conduct in local government, and abolish the surcharge system altogeher.

In his opening remarks yesterday, Mr Scrivener said that the surcharge system was deeply flawed as it cast the district auditor in the roles of "investigator, judge, prosecutor and his own expert witness". He conceded that the Conservative group on the council had decided to concentrate sales of council homes in marginal wards, in the hope of improving their electoral performance. He added that this was "never more than an aspiration" and that there was no evidence that any of the home owners voted Conservative.

Mr Scrivener said that Mr Magill's handling of the case had been unfair. He had fuelled hostile media coverage of Dame Shirley's case, refused to allow any of the appellants to see relevant documents before they were interviewed about their contents, and seized party political documents belonging to the Conservative group on the council.

Although it was true that Dame Shirley's father, Sir John Cohen, who built up the Tesco empire, was "the most successful barrow boy of all time", the £31 million surcharged was a massive sum for anyone, he said.

Apart from Dame Shirley, the other appellants are Graham England, former housing director, Peter Hartley, former housing chairman, Bill Phillips, former managing director, and David Weeks, former deputy leader. Paul Hayler, ex-divisional housing director, who was also named by Mr Magill's report, suffered a nervous breakdown and has had his appeal stayed. One former councillor, Dr Michael Dutt, committed suicide after learning that he could have been surcharged.

The hearing continues.

Dame Shirley: accused of wilful misconduct

Law Report, page 39

Lower calories for longer life

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

HUMAN life could be prolonged by low-calorie diets that raise levels of "good" cholesterol in the bloodstream, a ten-year study of monkeys has shown.

In shorter-lived species such as the fruitfly or the rat, it is known that cutting calories by 30 per cent leads to a 30 per cent increase in lifespan. The monkey experiments, carried out at the US National Institute of Ageing and the Arizona Centre on Ageing, suggest that the same may apply to a species much closer to man.

The rhesus monkeys were divided into two groups and fed a diet containing little fat or cholesterol. Half were also given a diet that was 30 per cent lower in calories.

In the *American Journal of Physiology*, a team led by Dr George Roth reports that the calorie-restricted monkeys showed higher levels of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, the form that protects against heart disease, and lower levels of triglycerides, fatty acid compounds in the blood. Both these changes would be beneficial.

In addition, the monkeys on the restricted diet showed lower blood pressure and better glucose tolerance, which should translate into lower risks of diabetes. "These results suggest that caloric restriction may exert beneficial effects in primates similar to those previously observed in rodents," Dr Roth said. "They may someday serve as a model for human studies."

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Brides will not obey in new church service

Sex and divorce are acknowledged in Anglican liturgy being tested by 800 parishes, reports Ruth Gledhill

BRIDES will no longer promise to "love, cherish and obey" their husbands in a new *marriage* service drawn up for the Church of England.

The service, which will be tried out in 800 parishes before it is introduced nationally, tries to blend feminist thinking with the tradition of *the* 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

For the first time, the new liturgy acknowledges that a woman can tempt a husband to be unfaithful and to "put asunder" a marriage. It recog*nises the* enormous risks of divorce and tells couples that the Church is "available for counselling and support in the years that follow".

The most controversial change by the Anglican liturgical commission is to remove the word "obey" from the service, reflecting a general move to "inclusive" language in the Church. Theologians argue that contemporary interpretations of the Bible show that woman is not subordinate to man, as once thought.

In the Prayer Book, the woman says: "I, *N.* [names] take thee, *N.* to my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, cherish and to obey, till death us do part." The man's vows, which come first, are similar, but without the promise to obey.

The Right Rev David Stancliffe, Bishop of Salisbury and chairman of the liturgical commission, said: "Obey was in the Prayer Book because of a view that the natural order was subordinate to mankind and woman was subordinate to man. That was due to a particular reading of parts of the book of Genesis, reinforced by St Paul.

"But if we read carefully what the New Testament is saying about the relationship between man and woman, it does not actually make it so crystal clear that in marriage one is entirely subordinate to the other."

He said that most couples preferred to use the version without "obey". "For the same reason, people on the whole prefer to exchange rings rather than have a man placing a ring on his wife's finger as a symbol of his possession of her." Similarly, he said, there were many women who felt that they were not the possessions of their parents and did not wish to be "given away" by one of them.

Tony Kilmister, of the Prayer Book Society, said: "My wife has always obeyed me, but she knows who is really boss. I am more concerned about the instances of inclusive language. This pushing of the feminist agenda is in danger of doing real danger to Anglican doctrine."

A bolthole for traditionalists remains. Brides who wish to obey will be able to choose the Book of Common Prayer, although many clergy and couples prefer not to use it because of references to sin, fornication and "men's carnal lusts and appetites".

The new liturgy restores the traditional phrase, "Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder", but changing "no man" to "no one". It mentions sex directly in a prayer celebrating "the joy of loving", where God is thanked "for the gift of sexual love".

A new rubric, or rule, has been inserted, stating that it is "the custom and practice of the Church of England" to offer marriage preparation.

While the tradition of the bride's father "giving away" his daughter is still an option, the new service contains a provision for the bride and groom to walk into church together, as in the Book of Common Prayer. For the first time there will be prayers for the "return after the honeymoon", for anniversaries, for the renewal of vows and for the blessing of a new ring.

The commission, charged with modernising all the established Church's authorised liturgies by 2000, yesterday sent the marriage service and a new funeral service to the 800 parishes selected as testing grounds, the first time that such a tactic has been deployed. Under a law passed by its General Synod a few months ago, the Church of England can experiment with new liturgies locally so that problems emerge before the service are officially authorised by the synod. During the three-month experimental period, couples marrying in any of the 800 churches, spread throughout England's 42 dioceses, will be able to opt for the experimental liturgy, the Alternative Service Book or the Book of Common Prayer.

Should the service be approved, the ASB will eventually fall into abeyance, but the Book of Common Prayer will remain available.

> ‘Obey was in the Prayer Book because of a view that woman was subordinate to man’

Letters, page 21

SIMON WALKER

United front: the Rev Lucy Winkett, 29, to be installed as a minor canon at St Paul's on *Sunday*, with Canon John Halliburton, who refuses to take Communion from her, but will work alongside her at the cathedral

Thai bride tells of her love for good-hearted gasman

Banjit Sawaengdee: happy

From Andrew Drummond
in Bangkok

THE young Thai "mail-order" bride who married the 75-year-old former chairman of British Gas's Northern Region spoke yesterday of her love for him.

At her tiny Bangkok flat, Banjit Sawaengdee, 23, said: "I know we can be very happy together." She said, however, she was shocked that their marriage was in so many British newspapers and even more astounded at Brian Clegg's disclosure that he had prostate problems and did not plan to have any children. She said: "All women want children. I will have to talk to Brian about that. He is a good-hearted man. I am sure he will understand."

Miss Sawaengdee, nicknamed Joom, hopes to travel to Britain to be reunited with her new husband at his retirement flat in Poole, *Dorset, next month. At 52 years his* junior, she is also considerably younger than his son of 46 and daughter of 39 and hopes to be like a sister rather than a mother to his eight-year-old son.

She said: "I knew when I first saw *his* picture that he was a good-hearted man. I knew he was kind and caring." She and Mr Clegg married within three days of meeting in Bangkok after being introduced through the Siam Introduction Agency in Kent two months ago.

"The age difference is not so strange here," she said. "I have not yet told my parents I am married. I *was saving that as a nice surprise* — maybe when they have their first grandchild."

Sorting through newspaper clippings she exclaimed: "Oh, he's wearing that shirt again. I told him I did not like that shirt, but he is a bit *stubborn about it*.

"Why do newspapers want to write about me? I'm not a very important person. I'm nobody." Miss Sawaengdee has been living in Bangkok with her sisters since she was 18, washing dishes in a restaurant and working as a waitress earning £100 a month, £30 of which she sends back to her family.

She said: "I started writing to *him and* he wrote back. I told him about my life and he told me about his life and his children.

"We decided before we met that we wanted to marry. His letters were so sweet.

"When he came I met him at the *airport in Bangkok and* went with him to his hotel. I knew he was a kind man. I did not go to his hotel to sleep with him. We were married after three days and we consummated our marriage in his hotel room.

"I do not think he is a dirty old man. I love him and I know I can love him more." Borrowing a journalist's mobile telephone, she called Mr Clegg in Poole, asking in broken English: "Hello Brian. How are you? Why interview you newspapers?"

After a brief conversation, she said: "I don't know what he said, but he sounds all right. When we are *together* we understand each other, but on the phone I hardly understand anything."

Student drowned saving life of boy in Africa

By Philip Delves Broughton

A STUDENT from Surrey drowned saving the life of a young African boy while on holiday in Malawi, an inquest in Woking was told yesterday.

Brett Orr, 18, ignored his girlfriend's pleas not to attempt a rescue. She knew he was not a good swimmer. He drowned, having struggled to bring the boy to the shallows and safety.

On August 10 Mr Orr, his girlfriend, Marie Louise Perkins, and her family set up camp on the beach of Nkhata *Bay on Lake Malawi*. They were half way through a month-long trek across the continent. Mr Orr, from Addlestone, had just completed his A-levels.

The group were having a drink on the beach when Brian Perkins, Marie Louise's father, decided to go for a swim. His daughter and Mr Orr remained on the beach.

Mr Perkins told the inquest that he realised that two African boys who *he* thought were just larking about were in trouble. He swam over, gathered one of them on to his back and swam for shore.

"The next thing I saw was that Brett had got one of the boys," he said. "The boy was wrapped around him. Brett shouted my name and I knew he was in trouble."

By now, some other African boys had run into the water. "I got the boy off Brett. Then another boy got on to my back and Brett went under. I didn't see him go under but my daughter did." Mr Orr had managed to carry the child he had saved to the shallows.

"Brett put himself at risk to save the boy. He saw me saving one of them and decided he would go and do it as well. Brett could swim a couple of swimming pool lengths, but he was not a competent swimmer," Mr Perkins said.

Michael Burgess, the Surrey Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death. "It was an accident caused by his own concern for the welfare of others, rather than for himself. I am sure his family must be proud of him," he said.

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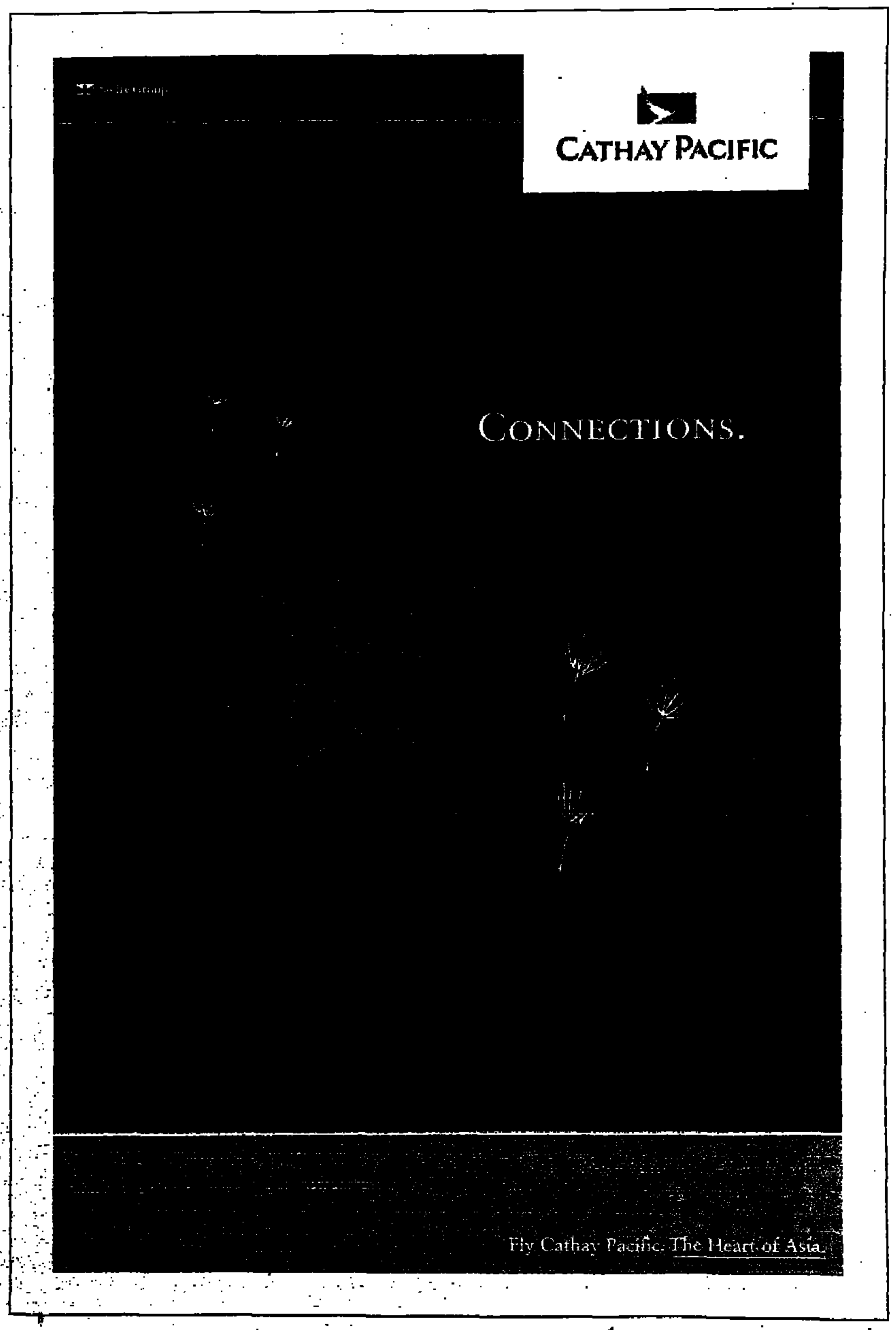
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THE TIMES on Saturday

New British food and drink extra section

Jonathan Meades asks why restaurant service is so bad

OH JEFF I LOVE YOU TOO BUT...

metro

Roy Lichenstein: his last interview

PLUS

Full events listings for your area

Girl boxer throws in the towel over controversial bout

By Joanna Bale

A GIRL who was due to take part in a boxing match with another 13-year-old withdrew from the contest yesterday.

Emma Brammer, who was scheduled to fight Andrea Prime last night, decided to pull out because of the controversy surrounding the bout. She said, however, that she had no intention of giving up boxing.

Emma, from Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, said unfair criticism of her and the sport had left her with no option. "I decided to pull out after all the pressure in the media and the things people were saying about me," she said. "The critics were writing things like 'Boxing is not for girls' and saying I should grow up and get back to my senses. But I think people have a right to choose.

"If girls want to box they should box. I think it is a really good sport and I shall carry on boxing." The teenage girls were due to have been the first females to contest an authorised boxing bout in Britain. They would have fought up to three two-minute rounds after changes in Amateur Boxing Association rules to permit girls and women aged 11 to 35 to box.

A bout between Dawn North and Rachel Brooks, both adults, on the same bill at Kay's nightclub in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, was also cancelled. Andrea's father, Ken, of Wigston, Leicestershire, said his daughter was bitterly disappointed the fight had been cancelled and said the attention had been a strain on both girls. "We feel for Emma because she has borne the brunt of the attention and it is a lot for a girl of that age to take," he said.

Mr Prime, 57, a welder, said he would support Andrea as long as she wanted to carry on boxing. "If she wanted to go horse-riding then I would take her horse-riding," he said. "I cannot see any danger at their age and weight."

The promoter of the match, George Burton, said that future female fights would be held in secret. "Emma Brammer will be boxing within the next few weeks at a venue outside of this city. We are not saying where it will be held because we do not want a repeat of all this fuss and hullabaloo."

Rob Robertson, chairman of the Amateur Boxing Association, said he was disappointed about Emma's decision to pull out. "I find it very sad that a young women has been prevented from expressing her right to choose her sport because of some of the aggressive interviewing that has taken place."

Leading article, page 21

JAMIE JONES

Teenage boxer Emma Brammer says she will continue to fight despite setback

Footballer aged 10 is banned for violence

By Paul Wilkinson

A BOY aged ten has been disciplined by football authorities for allegedly taking a swing at a policeman refereeing a junior match.

Anthony Bird, who was given a five-month suspended ban by the West Riding County Football Association, is thought to be the youngest footballer in Britain to face disciplinary action.

Anthony, who plays centre-half for Armthorpe Rovers Under-11s in the Doncaster and District League in Yorkshire, was ordered off in the first half of a game at Sprotbrough, near Doncaster.

He appeared before a three-man disciplinary hearing, along with adult offenders, at which officials warned him that the ban would be imposed if he offended again.

Yesterday his parents accused them of over-reacting. Steve Bird, his 34-year-old father, from Armthorpe, said his son was "hard but fair". However, he said the matter should have been dealt with at local level.

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Gourmet guide warns against rural dining

By Robin Young

ONLY three British restaurants meet top international standards, according to the latest *Good Food Guide*, published today. The guide also tells country house restaurants, which once led British cooking, that they are "dinosaurs" facing extinction because they are too stuffy.

It says that vigour and excellence in restaurants are a cause for celebration, but that it is now chefs in towns and cities who capture the excitement of eating. Some country house restaurants are too formal and must wake up to the importance of casual eating and competitive pricing.

The three establishments that "can comfortably stand comparison with the stiffest international competition" are Chez Nico at Ninety Park Lane and La Tante Claire in London, and the remote Altnaharrie Inn, near Ullapool in the Highlands. They get ten out of ten in a new rating system introduced in the guide's 46th edition.

Nine out of ten, denoting they are "highly individual and display impressive artistry", is awarded to Aubergine in Fulham, southwest London, Gidleigh Park at Chagford, Devon, and the Waterside Inn at Bray, Berkshire. Marco Pierre White, awarded three Michelin stars, does not feature in the guide because he has moved venues.

A further 17 of the 1,300 places in the guide get eight out of ten ("worth a special effort to visit"). The Capital Hotel's restaurant is the only one in London. Others include such long-honoured names as the Box Tree at Ilkley, west Yorkshire, Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons at Great Milton, Oxfordshire, and the Walnut Tree Inn at Llanddewi Skirrid in Monmouthshire. More recent entries include the Merchant House, Ludlow, Shropshire, the Fat Duck at Bray (the only town or village outside London with two top ratings) and Winteringham Fields at Winteringham, Lincolnshire.

Many big modern restaurants credited with improving London's catering, including Sir Terence Conran's Mezzo and Bluebird, and Oliver Peyton's Atlantic Bar and Grill, receive only four marks.

The guide notes pressure on kitchen and waiting staff as more "mega-restaurants" open. Waiting staff frequently have no training or experience, the book says, and even at a well-known London restaurant might be paid as little as £1 an hour, plus tips.

☐ *The Good Food Guide 1998* (Which?, £14.99)

Food and Wine, pages 35, 36

HOT FAVOURITE

Britain now spends more than £5.5 million a day in Indian restaurants, according to the *1998 Good Curry Guide*. More than 2.5 million diners visit curry houses every week, the book says, spending an average of £16 a visit and more than £2 billion a year. There are said to be 8,300 curry restaurants and 6,500 pubs that serve curry meals. Curry has replaced fish and chips as the nation's favourite food, with 18 per cent consuming curry against 16 per cent eating fish and chips, the guide says.

BEST IN EUROPE

Prized restaurant to be prosecuted

ONE of the new *Good Food Guide*'s most highly rated restaurants has learnt that it is facing prosecution by health officials.

It is alleged that inspectors found salmonella in a mayonnaise at 21 Queen Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, which, the guide says, serves "the best food in the North-East". It was awarded eight out of ten.

It has previously won restaurant of the year awards from the AA and *Decanter* magazine, and has stars or equivalent awards in the *Michelin*, *Egon Ronay* and *Ackerman* guides. Terry Laybourne, the owner and chef, confirmed yesterday that he had been served with a summons.

Douglas Fox, Newcastle City Council's food safety manager, said: "We began an investigation after a customer complained of food-poisoning symptoms." The case will be heard later this month by Newcastle magistrates.

Mr Laybourne said: "Everyone involved with the restaurant is very upset by this because we have worked hard to build up our very good reputation." Tim Hibbert, Newcastle's head of public health, said: "Restaurants should use only pasteurised eggs."

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Hotel's fall into sea blamed on council

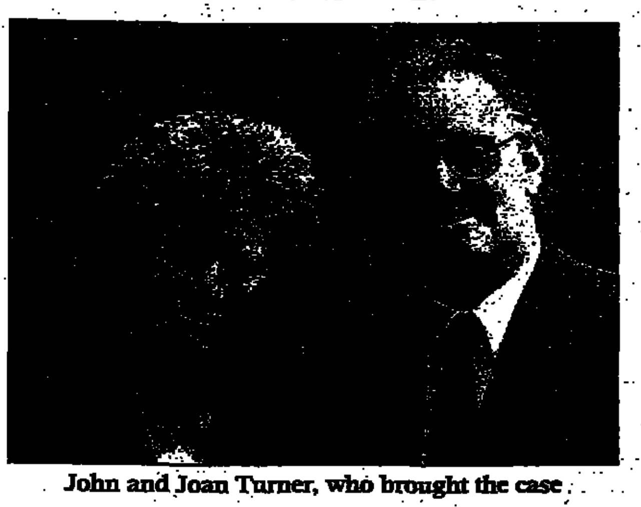
Owners win court fight for £2m compensation, reports **Michael Horsnell**

A SPECTACULAR landslide in which a clifftop hotel fell 150ft into the sea four years ago was blamed yesterday on the failings of a local council.

In a High Court judgment that will alarm local authorities in areas of coastal erosion and place a new duty on landowners, the owners of the four-star Holbeck Hall Hotel at Scarborough won a fight for compensation, which is expected to total more than £2 million.

The 29-bedroom late Victorian hotel and its extensive grounds, owned between the wars by the family of the actor Charles Laughton, slipped into the North Sea between June 3-6, 1993. Guests had been moved out.

Judge John Hicks, QC, sitting as an Official Referee, ruled that Scarborough Borough Council was in breach of its duty of care to maintain the supporting land and the undercliff it owned between the hotel grounds and the sea.


John and Joan Turner, who brought the case

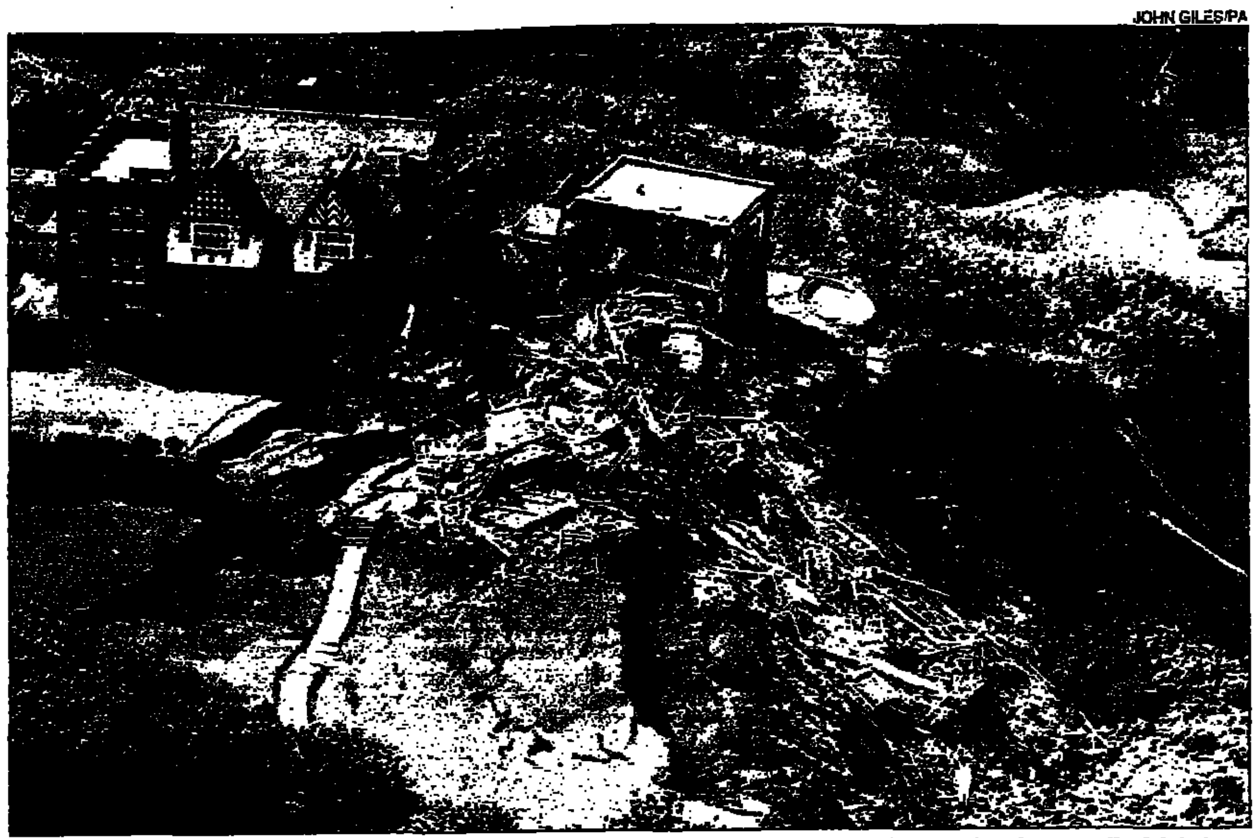
The action was brought in the names of John and Joan Turner, who own the English Rose Hotels group, though their insurance claim has already been settled. The hearing was effectively brought by their insurers, Cigna Insurance Co of Europe, who sued for damages. Figures have still to be assessed but John Farrell, solicitor to Cigna, said after the case that damages, interest and costs would exceed £2 million.

Mrs Turner said that she had been traumatised by the sudden landslide which brought about the demise of the mock-Tudor building, erected as a private house in 1883 and converted to an hotel in 1930. She said: "I spent ten years of my life at the hotel and I miss that beautiful building. I just remain grateful that no lives were lost."

The judge dismissed a claim in which Scarborough had in turn blamed its technical advisers, the site investigation company Geotechnical Engineering (Northern), which had been commissioned to check the stability of the cliffs. The judge said the council must have been aware, from the history of cliff falls and remedial works along the coastline, of the hazards.

He said he was satisfied the council did not act in accordance with all the company's findings. Some works were carried out in 1989, but they were "wholly inadequate", the judge said.

Scarborough is on a 40-mile stretch of Europe's fastest eroding coastline which would cost millions of pounds to control. But the judge said the council was bound by common law to exercise a "measured duty of care" to the hotel owners.


JOHN GILES/PA

Slipsliding away: the Holbeck Hall Hotel in Scarborough fell 150ft into the sea in 1993, leaving a trail of debris

John Trebble, the council's chief executive, said later that the judgment would have far-reaching consequences for landowners if it were not overturned, and that an appeal would be launched. Emphasising that the council was involved only because it owned adjacent land, he said: "The judgment breaks new ground as it seeks to create a new duty on landowners, the implications of which are quite startling, based on very nebulous principles."

John Rees, of the Local Government Association, said later that it would be studying the judgment closely and supporting Scarborough council. "We are very concerned. Anyone who owns land in these circumstances could now find themselves being taken to court."

Since the collapse, scientists have said that cliffs on the East Coast should be left to crumble into the sea to help to save beaches and farmland and to defend cities from flooding. They believe the collapse was part of a process that is beneficial to the environment and that coastal protection is unnecessary.

Chocolate bar bubbles inspire new rocket fuel

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of space enthusiasts have developed a low-cost rocket fuel inspired by the bubbles in Aero chocolate. They believe the fuel, which will power a 7ft rocket from a launch pad in Yorkshire at the weekend, could dramatically cut the costs of launching space missions.

Aerated Solid Propellant, or Asprop, is the brainchild of a team of scientists, engineers and rocket enthusiasts linked with the Space Quest Foundation, set up in Newcastle upon Tyne last year.

Derek Willis, one of the fuel's inventors, said yesterday: "The big boosters on the space shuttle use a solid fuel made from an oil-based slurry and powdered oxidisers like ammonium perchlorate. These oxiders are very volatile, which has safety implications, and are very expensive at around £400 a tonne.

"Our fuel costs about a tenth of the shuttle's. The fuel for each of the space shuttle's two motors costs between $30 and $40 million every launch. Using our fuel would cost between $3 and $4 million, saving them $50 to $60 million on each mission."

Mr Willis, a former research assistant at the University of Northumbria, said that the foundation tried to encourage schools and pupils to get involved in science and technology. "One of our projects is to build and launch a series of small rockets. Because of the costs of solid fuels, we decided to try and design our own, based on pure oxygen."

The problem they faced was that oxygen cannot be easily mixed with the slurry. "Then, about seven months ago, I was eating an Aero chocolate bar and was looking at the bubbles. I wondered whether it would be possible to force compressed oxygen into the oil-based slurry."

The technique, which the foundation has patented, involves pumping the oxygen into the slurry at 3,000lb per square inch, creating billions of microscopic bubbles. A resin hardener is mixed in to solidify the fuel, which can then be put into a rocket motor chamber.

Mr Willis said: "So far over 50 static tests have been carried out to check the fuel's reliability and this weekend it will face the ultimate test when it is used to power Space Quest 1."

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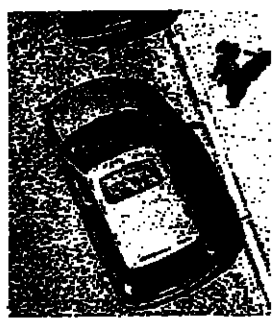

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Young offenders to face their victims in court

James Landale on the Home Secretary's plan to reform the 'secret garden' that is the juvenile justice system

BRIGHTON

YOUNG offenders will have to face their victims in court under changes to the youth justice system announced by the Home Secretary yesterday.

Jack Straw said that young thugs should be made to see how much suffering their crimes cause, and that victims should be able to see justice being done. At present victims are kept away from youth courts unless they are required as witnesses.

In his speech to the Labour Party conference in Brighton, Mr Straw also announced plans to combat racist violence. The forthcoming Crime and Disorder Bill will create offences of racially motivated violence and racial harassment. But Mr Straw went further, saying that criminals would face tougher sentences for other offences if a racial motive was proved. Offenders could face an extra two years in jail if they "demonstrated racial hostility at or around the time of the basic offence".

Specifically, there will also be a statutory duty on the courts to treat racial motivation as an aggravating factor when they are passing sentence against an offender. "Racist crimes are among the most despicable of all crimes," the Home Secretary said. "They strike at the heart of a decent society. Those who commit racist crimes should expect severe punishment."

In a tough message to people calling for the legalisation of soft-drugs, he said: "We will not decriminalise, legalise or legitimise the use of drugs." Heckled by a lone delegate, he added: "At a time when we are trying to limit and control the use of alcohol and nicotine, how can we possibly justify making it lawful to experiment with other kinds of dangerous drugs?"

Mr Straw said that Britain's youth courts had become a "secret garden" where offenders' names were never published and where victims rarely came into contact with their attackers. "This system should be there to work for the victim and the public. We must afford much more dignity to the victims of crime and give them a chance to see justice dispensed on their behalf. I can therefore announce that we will be encouraging youth court magistrates to allow victims into their courts."

He added that the Bill would contain strong measures to combat persistent juvenile offenders by cutting court delays and giving magistrates new powers.

Speaking earlier on BBC Radio 4's *World at One*, Mr Straw confirmed that he was considering the creation of an offence of "corporate manslaughter", which would allow the prosecution of company directors after disasters caused by negligence.

Mr Straw said that many countries had laws under which company directors could be convicted if their negligence caused a huge loss of life. "In this country, we don't have those provisions effectively on the Statute Book," he said. "There's a strong argument for having such provisions."

The proposal is unlikely to come before Parliament until late next year at the earliest. On Wednesday Labour delegates passed a motion demanding a new charge of corporate manslaughter.

Calls for company prosecutions have followed tragedies such as the Kings Cross fire in 1987 when 31 died, the Zeebrugge ferry disaster in the same year when 188 people died, and the Clapham rail crash in 1988 when 35 people died.

However, a spokesman for the Society of Personal Injury Lawyers said: "In a modern corporation, you have many levels of management and it's almost impossible to find the one person who can be said to be responsible."

Leading article, page 21

Straw targets profits of suspected crime

TOUGH measures to seize the assets of suspected top criminals without waiting for a criminal conviction are being studied by the Government, Jack Straw revealed yesterday (Stewart Tendler writes).

Mr Straw told the conference that confiscation orders against criminals were still yielding only £8 million a year from multibillion-pound drug trafficking rackets. Prosecutors and courts needed tougher powers and, he said, and the Government was now considering wider powers through the civil courts. The Prime Minister and Mr Straw have asked for reports on powerful legislation used against organised crime and drug traffickers in America and Ireland. Any change would take into account the need to protect civil liberties but ministers believe that hitting criminals' bank balances would be an effective way of stifling serious crime.

In eight years the courts have confiscated £100 million, but ministers believe that this is a fraction of the proceeds of crime.

Lauren Booth urging MPs to support a ban on the "barbaric" sport of hunting

Cherie's sister speaks on fringe

CHERIE BLAIR'S half-sister, Lauren Booth, made her debut on the political stage to speak out against hunting at a fringe meeting in Brighton.

Ms Booth, 28, who is a former model, described the sport as "barbaric" and urged MPs to support the Private Member's Bill being put forward by Mike Foster, Labour MP for Worcester, which would ban hunting with dogs. Last week she said that the only reason that hunting had not already been banned was that it was the hobby of the rich.

Ms Booth is the daughter of the actor Tony Booth, Mrs Blair's father, who separated from her mother when she was a child. The meeting, on Wednesday, was held to launch *A View to a Kill*, a video film being sent to every MP. Yesterday Ms Booth said that she did not clear her appearance with either her sister or her brother-in-law, the Prime Minister. "It's totally down to me. I don't discuss every decision I make with them."

Mr Foster's Bill is due to have its second reading in the Commons on November 28. Although Labour has a manifesto commitment to allow MPs a free vote on whether hunting should be banned, ministers fear that the Bill will disrupt their busy parliamentary timetable. Opponents are likely to table hundreds of amendments to delay its passage and without government support it will not reach the statute book.

The Prime Minister is personally opposed to hunting, but other senior ministers do not support a ban.

Cook courts France in bid for arms trade code

By Polly Newton and Nicholas Watt

Cook: promised export controls

BRITAIN and France could join forces to press for a Europe-wide code of conduct on arms sales, Robin Cook told the Labour conference yesterday.

The Foreign Secretary said he had invited the French government to work alongside him in securing rules that would be followed by every European country. The idea had been welcomed by the French Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, who said he saw "only advantages" in supporting the proposals.

Mr Cook, who was one of the few Cabinet ministers to be given a standing ovation, said that he had promised before the election that a Labour Government would not allow the export of arms to countries where people were repressed or which were guilty of military aggression. Those criteria had been put in place as part of the Government's commitment to an ethical foreign policy and they were having an impact.

But he said that the Government must protect the jobs of the 400,000 people who worked in Britain's defence industry. "We have a duty, both as a Government with a commitment to the British economy, and as a Labour movement which includes the unions who represent those workers."

Later the Labour leadership defeated a call for the Trident nuclear missile system to be scrapped. Ministers were delighted after delegates voted against the left-wing motion by 56 per cent to 44 per cent.

The issue offered the last chance of an embarrassing conference defeat for the party leadership, which used to be an annual occurrence on nuclear disarmament. The vote came at the end of a lengthy and heated debate in which George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said that scrapping Trident would break one of Labour's election manifeso pledges.

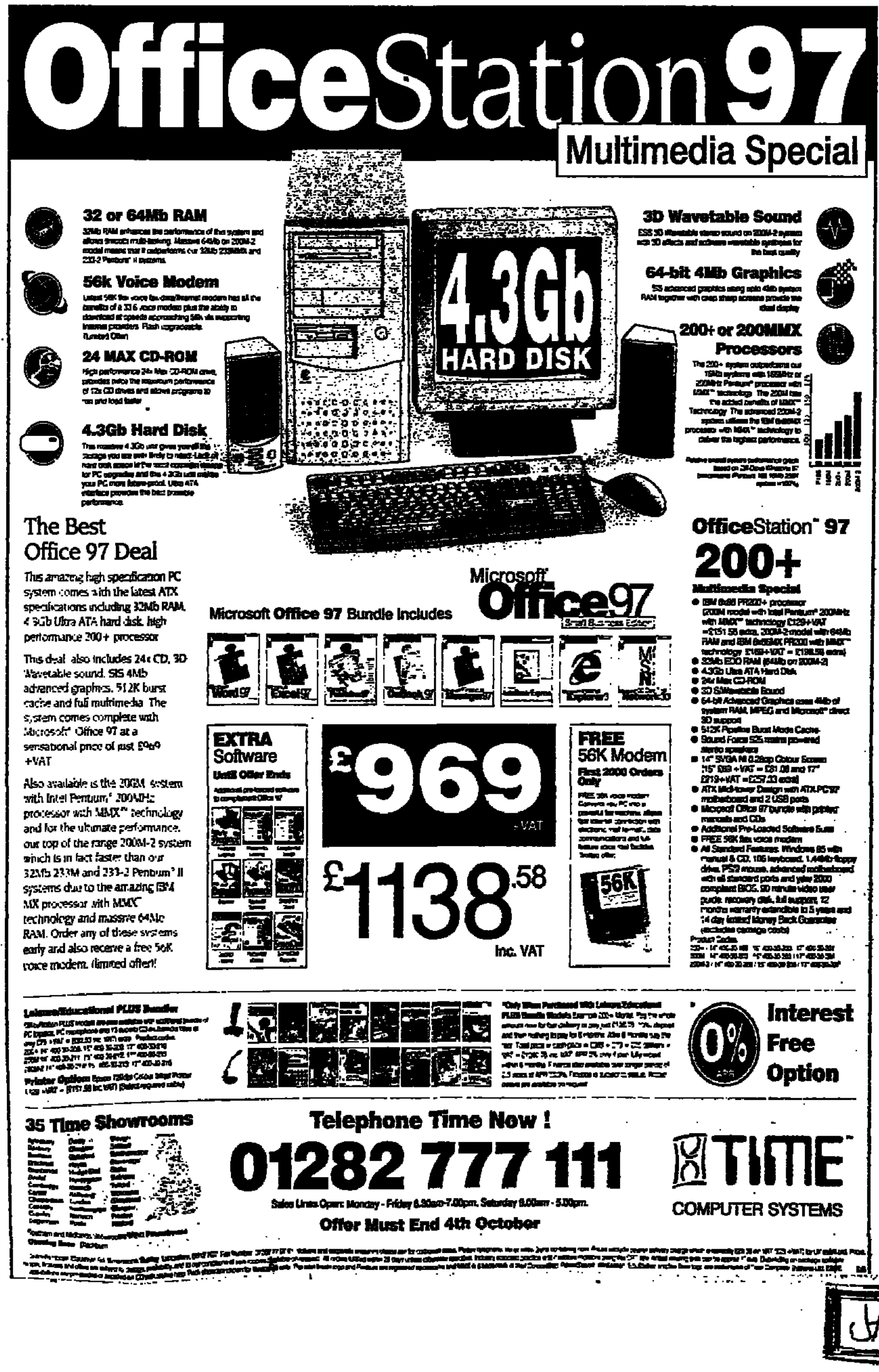
He said: "Breaking our clear manifeso pledges ... just after we had been elected would mean making exactly the same mistakes as the Tories. And see what price they paid at the ballot box."

Mr Roberston said that "18 long years of opposition" had taught him that the British people will elect only a Government they trust with the country's defence. "These are solemn pledges which you made, we made and which the party made, and they are pledges which I for one have no intention of breaking. The British people have kept faith with us — we must keep faith with them."

Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, dismissed claims that scrapping Trident would save £5 billion. She said: "As I said last year, it simply is not true that significant money can now be saved by decommissioning Trident."

Left-wingers won strong applause for their calls for Trident to be scrapped. Cherry Mosteshar from Oxford West and Abingdon said: "We still use our workers as an excuse to line the pockets of the arms dealers. We do not need Trident and we certainly cannot afford it."

Trident was costing Britain £1.5 billion a year, which she said would be better spent on public services. "I am asking my Government, the Government I prayed for for 18 years, to make a bold stand in front of the world and say we now know what 'ethical' means."



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TIME COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Minister requests easing of beef ban

By Michael Hornsby

NEW proposals for lifting the European Union ban on British beef were submitted to Brussels by the Government yesterday.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, told the conference that he was asking that meat from all cattle born after August 1 last year should be exempt from the ban.

"Since that date the UK has enforced very strict controls to make sure that feed does not contain meat and bonemeal, through which infection can be carried. Tests have confirmed their effectiveness", he said.

"For animals born after August 1, 1996, the only known possible risk of BSE [mad cow] disease is through maternal transmission [from cow to calf]. So we are also today proposing the compulsory slaughter of all offspring from BSE-infected cows born on or after that date."

Dr Cunningham said he would continue to work for a complete lifting of the ban.

TODAY'S AGENDA

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, will lead a debate on Scottish and Welsh devolution, followed by a debate on the party constitution. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, will wind up the conference with a speech.

Trimble shows little faith in talks success

By Nicholas Watt
Political Correspondent

Trimble: attack on "appeasement"

DAVID TRIMBLE visited the Labour Party conference yesterday to sound a pessimistic note on the chances of Ulster's political parties reaching agreement in the Stormont talks.

Speaking at a fringe meeting attended by a leading member of Sinn Fein, the Ulster Unionist leader criticised the Government for inviting "terrorist gangs" to the negotiations and for appeasing republicans.

Weeks after becoming the first Ulster Unionist leader since the 1920s to sit down with Sinn Fein, Mr Trimble gave warning that the prospects of agreement were not very high. "Very few people expect there will be an agreement in this process," he said. "I am not overly optimistic. There is no point in talking things up if you are going to be let down."

He insisted that he was committed to the talks process, but said that there was "nothing sacrosanct" about the present arrangements. "The talks process is a means to an end. The important thing is the end. The present means may or may not work."

Mr Trimble, who shared a platform with Paul Murphy, the Northern Ireland Political Development Minister, gave a blunt illustration of the political risks he is taking by negotiating with Sinn Fein. He quoted a recent opinion poll in Northern Ireland which showed that only 50.5 per cent of Unionists agree with his decision, while 49.5 per cent disagree.

The depth of opposition to Mr Trimble was underlined earlier this week when up to 1,300 hardline Unionists attended a rally in Belfast to protest. The rally was attended by the Rev Ian Paisley, the leader of the Democratic Unionists, and Robert McCartney, the leader of the United Kingdom Unionists, who have withdrawn from the talks in protest at the presence of Sinn Fein.

Mr Trimble said that there were good reasons for Unionists to fear the talks process. Turning to Mr Murphy he said: "You have allowed people to bring guns to the democratic table. People are concerned that they are simply seeing a process of appeasement and wondering where it will end."

Mr Trimble received a polite, but unenthusiastic, reception when he became the first Ulster Unionist leader to share a platform with a Labour Northern Ireland Minister. Most of the questions came from Labour activists whose sympathies lay with the nationalist community. The meeting was attended by Francie Molloy, a member of Sinn Fein's National Executive.

Mr Murphy praised Mr Trimble for sitting down with Sinn Fein. But the minister, who has been given the nickname "Murph" by Mr Trimble, emphasised that the talks would be difficult. "There will be a bumpy ride ahead, but it is right that there should be," he said. "They would not be proper negotiations if there was not."

The Government hopes that the political parties will reach agreement by next May. If that happens, the agreement will be put to the people of Northern Ireand and the Irish Republic in two separate referendums.

The agreement will be passed only if a majority of people in Northern Ireland vote yes.

Brown backs Short's job battle

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

CLARE SHORT has won the support of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, in her battle to stay in the Cabinet.

The International Development Secretary is one of a handful of ministers in the spotlight as Tony Blair comes under pressure to bring forward a reshuffle to next month. Ms Short infuriated Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, Downing Street and other ministers in August when she accused the Foreign Office of trying to undermine her.

Her attack appeared in a Sunday newspaper interview on the day that Diana, Princess of Wales, died. But for that a storm would have ensued that might have led to Ms Short's dismissal at the time, according to several ministers. Some of Mr Blair's advisers suggested that she had gone too far and that she could not be allowed to go on embarrassing the Prime Minister and the Government. Ministers say that she was deeply unwise to have "crossed" Mr Cook, a natural political friend, and that another slip-up would be her last.

The Chancellor, however, is understood to have thrown his backing behind Ms Short. Given Mr Brown's pivotal position as Mr Blair's most trusted and powerful minister, his support may prove to be decisive. Mr Blair, too, is understood to be more tolerant of her than some of his closest colleagues would like.

Mr Blair has yet to make up his mind about whether to make a small reshuffle in the autumn. But there are calls from high in the Government for him to move [illegible] to be underperforming. Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, has been the subject of a whispering campaign alleging that a series of important decisions lie unresolved on his desk because he has difficulty making up his mind. David Clark, the Public Service Minister, has has a difficult start and got into a muddle over the proposed freedom of information Bill.

Mr Blair hinted on Wednesday that his loyal ally Peter Mandelson could soon enter the Cabinet. Despite the minister's difficulties this week it is widespread expected that his arrival at the top of the Government cannot long be delayed.

One minister who was once thought to be under threat, Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, is understood to have been assured by Downing Street that he will

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CONTRACT FOOD AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES • REMOTE SITE MANAGEMENT
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SODEXHO ALLIANCE AND MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL, INC. TO MERGE THEIR FOOD SERVICE AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT BUSINESSES IN NORTH AMERICA.

* SODEXHO ALLIANCE and MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL, Inc. announced they have entered into a definitive agreement to combine SODEXHO's North American operations (SODEXHO NORTH AMERICA) with MARRIOTT's food service and facilities management business (MARRIOTT MANAGEMENT SERVICES).

The combined company, SODEXHO MARRIOTT SERVICES, Inc. will be the largest provider of food and facilities management services in North America, with over 4,800 accounts and annual sales in excess of USD 4 billion. It is expected to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

The merger between SODEXHO NORTH AMERICA and MARRIOTT MANAGEMENT SERVICES is expected to be completed in early 1998.

MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL shareholders will own 51 percent (with as main shareholder the Marriott family holding approximately 10 percent) and SODEXHO ALLIANCE 49 percent of SODEXHO MARRIOTT SERVICES.

Both Pierre BELLON, Chairman and Chief Executive officer of SODEXHO ALLIANCE and J.W. MARRIOTT, Jr, Chairman and Chief Executive officer of MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL, Inc. said they expect the planned transaction to create significant value for their stakeholders.

"SODEXHO ALLIANCE, already leader in the European market, also reinforces its worldwide leadership" said Pierre BELLON, "We have been seeking to expand our presence in the attractive North American market. MARRIOTT MANAGEMENT SERVICES is an excellent strategic fit for us and we are excited about the growth opportunities created by the merger. Both organizations share a commitment to exceptional customer service, *shareholder value creation, commitment and opportunity for our people*".

"The merger provides MARRIOTT shareholders an ongoing stake in a strong and well focused contract services company with excellent growth prospects", commented J.W. MARRIOTT. "With the industry consolidating and becoming increasingly global, we are extremely pleased to be aligned with SODEXHO ALLIANCE, one of the largest and most successfull contract services organizations in the world".

* SODEXHO MARRIOTT SERVICES, Inc.

The company will have an 8 member Board:

- 2 nominated by *MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL*, Inc. including *William* SHAW, President and Chief Operating Officer of MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL, Inc.,
- 3 nominated by SODEXHO ALLIANCE, including Pierre BELLON,
- Charles D. O'DELL, currently President of MARRIOTT MANAGEMENT SERVICES,
- 2 independent American Directors selected jointly by the remainder of the Board.

William SHAW will serve as Non Executive Chairman of the Board.

Charles D. O'DELL will become President and Chief Executive and Michel LANDEL, currently President and Chief Executive Officer of SODEXHO NORTH AMERICA, will become Executive Vice-President of SODEXHO MARRIOTT SERVICES.

Charles D. O'DELL and Michel LANDEL said "SODEXHO MARRIOTT SERVICES will be the top provider of contract services to the corporate, healthcare and education markets in North America. Our clients will benefit from the combination of the best food programs and operating systems of the two separate companies, as well as the broader range of value-added services we will be able to provide".

They are confident that, as a result of the merger, employees of both MARRIOTT MANAGEMENT SERVICES and SODEXHO NORTH AMERICA will see enhanced carreer development opportunities.

"SODEXHO MARRIOTT SERVICES will be well positioned to grow at above-average rates", explained Michel LANDEL, "We expect to capture a major share of new business as more organizations recognise the cost savings and performance gains we can help them achieve through outsourcing". Additionally, Charles D. O'DELL noted "joining with worldwide leader SODEXHO ALLIANCE should create synergies that will enhance our competitiveness and accelerate our growth".

"SODEXHO *MARRIOTT SERVICES* will have considerable appeal to investors" confided Charles D. O'DELL. "This will be a highly focused company with a leadership position in a growing industry. In addition, SODEXHO MARRIOTT SERVICES should increase its profitability through sharing best practices, combining resources and systems integration".

On a proforma basis for the fiscal year ended January 3, 1997, SODEXHO MARRIOTT SERVICES would have had sales of USD 4.1 billion and earnings before interest expense, income taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) of USD 233 million.

Following the merger, total debt of SODEXHO MARRIOTT SERVICES is expected to be USD 1.25 billion.

For SODEXHO ALLIANCE, financing of this transaction will be accompanied by a capital increase of approximately FF 2 billion (USD 330 million).

This rights issue to shareholders will be launched shortly and the Bellon Group has indicated its intention to fully subscribe for its share of such issue.

SODEXHO ALLIANCE will consolidate SODEXHO MARRIOTT SERVICES in its financial statements. The Group will employ more than 212,000 staff with sales on a 12 months proforma basis of around FF 55 billion (USD 9,1 billion).

As a consequence of its stable and predictable cash flow, SODEXHO ALLIANCE will rapidly recover its investment capacity. In 3 years, interest cover should be around 5 and net debt compared to adjusted net worth of around 60%.

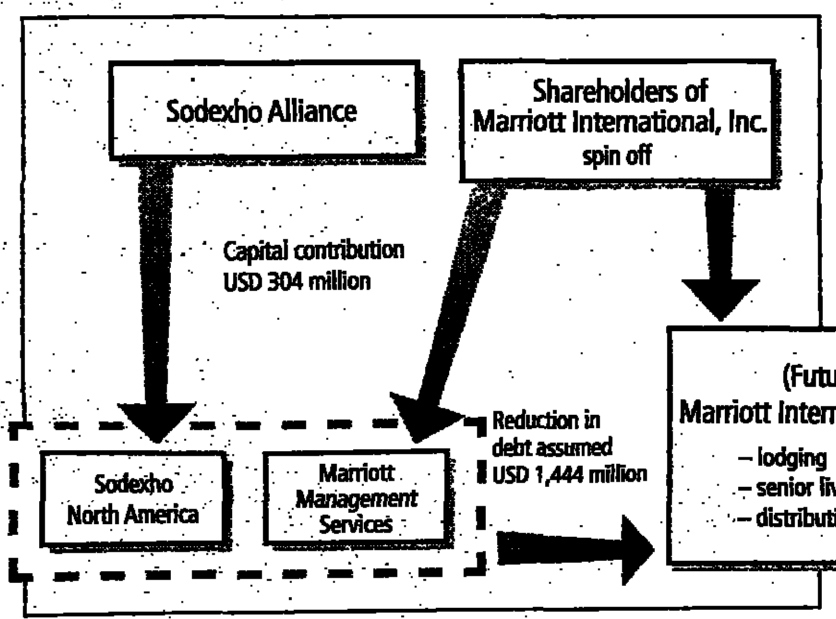
* Other highlights of the transaction

The definitive agreement is subject to customary conditions, including approval by MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL, Inc. shareholders, receipt of an affirmative ruling from the Internal Revenue Service on the transaction structure and other regulatory approvals.

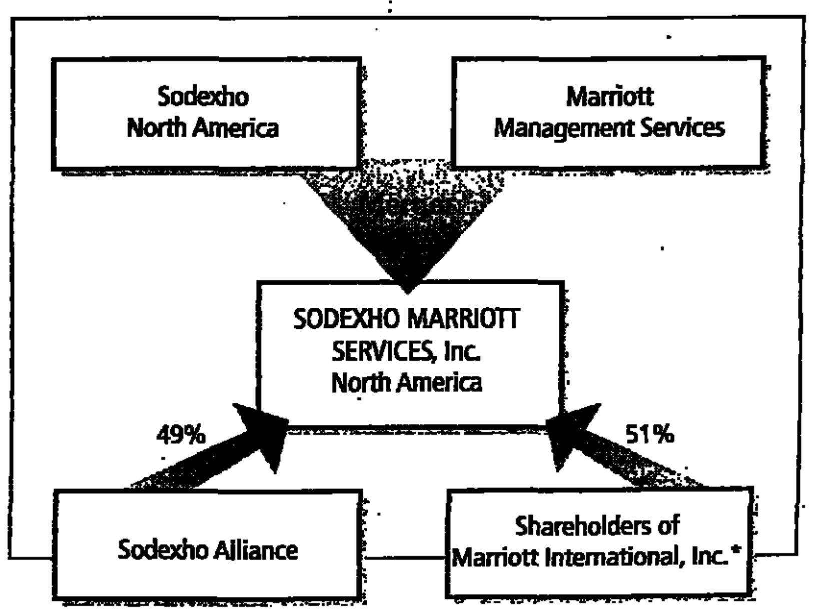
In a separate transaction, SODEXHO ALLIANCE will acquire MARRIOTT's food service and facilities management operations in the United Kingdom.

Merrill Lynch and Co. is acting as advisor to MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL, Inc. and Société Générale Securities Corporation is advising SODEXHO ALLIANCE.

Merger organization


Sodexho Alliance
Shareholders of Marriott International, Inc. spin off
Capital contribution USD 304 million
Sodexho North America
Marriott Management Services
Reduction in debt assumed USD 1,444 million
(Future) Marriott International, Inc.
– lodging
– senior living services
– distribution services

Shareholding structure after merger


Sodexho North America
Marriott Management Services
SODEXHO MARRIOTT SERVICES, Inc. North America
49%
51%
Sodexho Alliance
Shareholders of Marriott International, Inc.*

* the Marriott family is the major shareholder holding c. 10%.

COMPANY PROFILES

* MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL, Inc.

is the world's leading hospitality company with over 4,900 operating units in the United States and 51 other countries and territories. Major businesses include hotels operated and franchised under the Marriott, Ritz-Carlton, Courtyard, Residence Inn, Fairfield, Towne Place Suites, Renaissance, New World and Ramada International brands; vacation club (timeshare) resorts, food service and facilities management of clients in business, education and health care, senior living communities and services and food service distribution. Total sales for fiscal year 1996 were USD 10.2 billion. The company is headquartered in Washington, D.C. and has approximately 225,000 employees.

* SODEXHO ALLIANCE

is the world leader in food and management services. Operating in 62 countries its 142,000 employees provide services for over 13,500 units in: businesses, hospitals, schools, nursing and retirement homes, prisons and remote sites onshore and offshore throughout the world.

The group is also the world's second largest Service Vouchers and Cards company with a range of products that includes restaurant, gift, gasoline, food and home services voucher, as well as medication and other cards.

Sodexho Service Vouchers and Cards are an innovative payment media that allows companies to offer employees a tax free perquisite.

Sodexho also operates river cruises and is a partner to major international sporting events.

Total sales for the SODEXHO ALLIANCE Group exceeded FRF 29 billion (USD 4.6 billion) in fiscal 1997.

Sodexho
ALLIANCE

For further information, please contact: Raphaël Dubrule - Corporate Secretary
Tel.:+33 (1) 30 85 74 74 - Fax: +33 (1) 30 85 50 05 - Web site: http://www.sodexho.com

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Yeltsin hints at another term

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

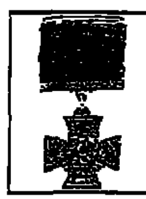
PRESIDENT Yeltsin stirred up speculation about his political future yesterday when he stepped back from an earlier pledge to step down at the end of his term in 2000, saying that it was too early to say.

Asked during a visit to the Volga city of Nizhni Novgorod about the possibility of running for re-election, Mr Yeltsin said that, with three years of his term still to go, it was too soon to make any comment: "My supporters forbid me from speaking about this subject."

Only a month ago Mr Yeltsin, who won a second term at last year's presidential elections, categorically stated that he had no intention of running again. His words yesterday were interpreted by opponents as a retreat from that position.

The Constitution limits the President to two terms of office. But supporters of Mr Yeltsin argue that, since he was first elected in 1991, two years before the present Constitution was adopted, his current term will be his first full term under that Constitution and he should be allowed to run for a second one.

Maoris battle for dead hero to receive VC



A quota system denied a New Zealand soldier the medal his gallantry had earned, writes **Cathie Bell** in Wellington

NEW evidence has come to light showing that a New Zealand soldier was unfairly denied a Victoria Cross for bravery during the Second World War. His relatives and friends intend to ask for posthumous recognition, citing an unofficial quota system for the snub to the Maori hero.

Lance Sergeant Haane Manahi returned to New Zealand after the war and died in a car crash in 1986.

His cause has been taken up by a committee headed by Sir Charles Bennett, former commander of the Maori Battalion, and supported by Tuariki Delamere, a Cabinet minister, who is from the same Te Arawa tribe as Sergeant Manahi.

They say the evidence shows that a committee at the War Office downgraded the recommendation that Sergeant Manahi receive a Victoria Cross to a Distinguished Conduct Medal. The VC is the highest military award for bravery in action.

Records which might have explained why the recommendation was changed by the Victoria Cross committee have been destroyed. However, other records confirm that there was a medal-allocating system at the time.

Norman Bennett, a researcher for the committee campaigning for Sergeant Manahi's recognition, said his recommendation came just three weeks after Lieutenant Moananui-a-kiwa Ngarimu received a posthumous VC. He believes that may have influenced the committee's decision.

"No other New Zealand soldier in the Second World War to be properly and originally recommended for a VC ever had their recommendation downgraded," he said.

Sergeant Manahi's commendation was signed by a number of senior officers, including Major Denis Blundell — later a Governor-General of New Zealand — and supported by Lieutenant-General Sir Bernard Freyberg, General Sir Brian Horrocks and Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery.

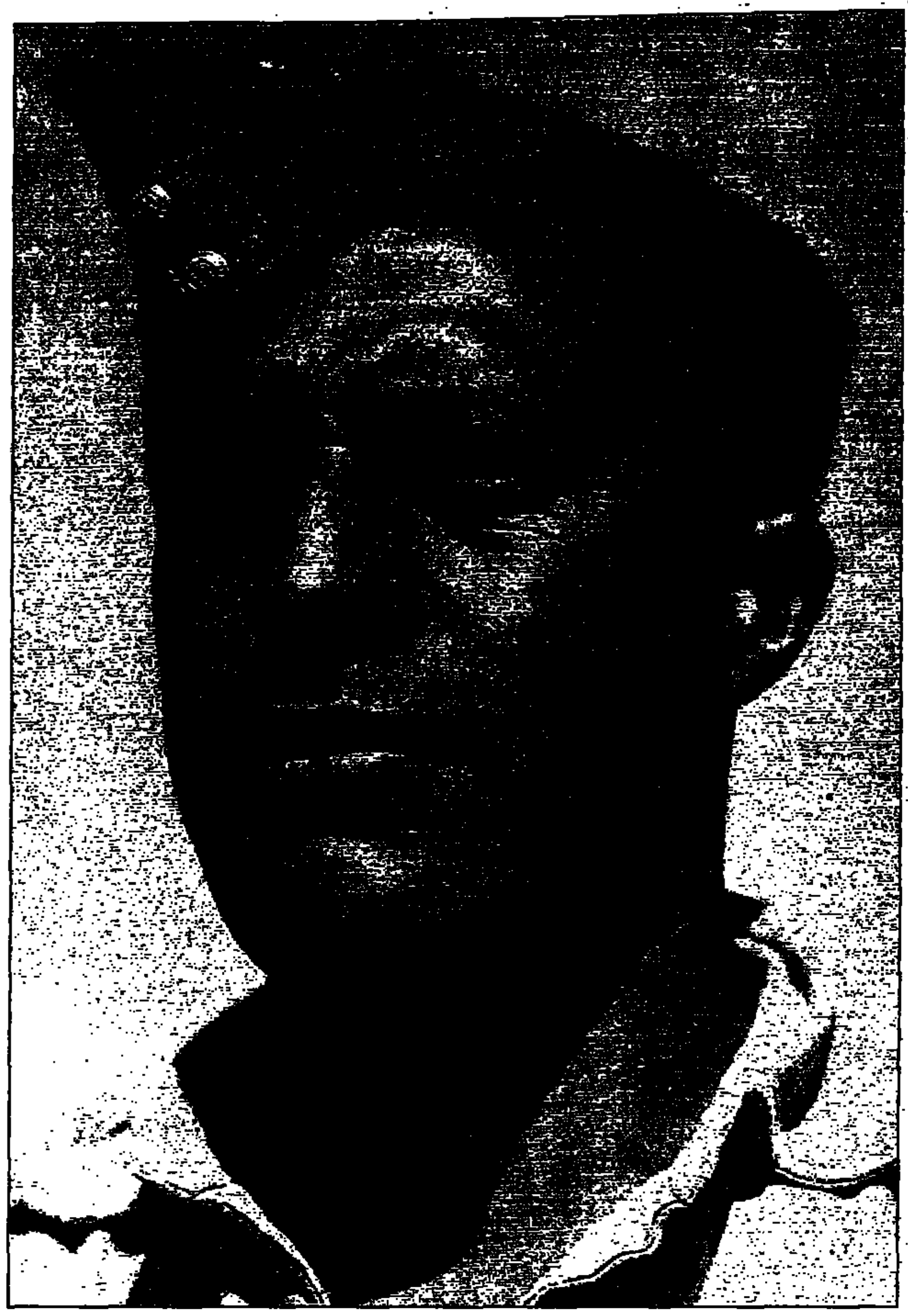
It came after Sergeant Manahi led a small band of Maori Battalion soldiers up an exposed rocky outcrop at Takrouna in Tunisia in 1943 to capture an enemy stronghold.

Sergeant Manahi, armed with a sub-machinegun, launched an attack on 12 truckloads of Italian troops. The action was later described by Sir Brian as "the most gallant feat of arms I witnessed in the course of the war".

In March of this year Mr Delamere showed Parliament the 1943 army form which had the letters VC crossed out and DCM substituted. At that time it was unknown who had changed the recommendation. However, information which came to light this week showed the change was made in London by the War Office committee which awarded medals.

Mr Delamere, who once scolded his tribal leaders for being too polite in urging the Government to recognise Sergeant Manahi, said the new evidence justified a fresh approach. He said he planned to meet Jim Bolger, the Prime Minister, to ask for the case to be reconsidered.

The Government had been unwilling to back the claim because it was unclear who had changed the original recommendation and why.



Lance Sergeant Haane Manahi: VC recommendation downgraded to DCM

Island's cats and rats must die to aid seabirds

BY MICHAEL BINYON

THE Foreign Office and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) have joined forces to help vast numbers of seabirds to recolonise the remote Atlantic island of Ascension by ridding it of feral cats and rats.

The British dependent territory, hundreds of miles off the African coast, provides the tropical Atlantic's most important sites for breeding seabirds. But cats and rats, introduced to the main island from ships early in the last century, eat thousands of bird eggs and kill the young of wideawake terns, frigate birds and boobies. Now many birds nest only on an offshore rock stack.

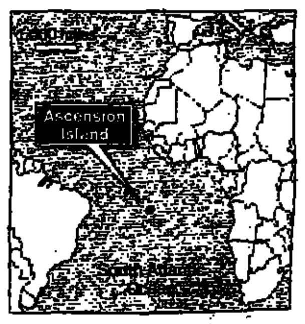
The £1 million eradication programme will take two years and use the latest techniques tested in New Zealand and the South Pacific. The RSPB and the Government are sharing the preparatory costs and next year will seek a European Union grant.

Cats will be killed humanely and bait laid for rats will contain anti-coagulants that bring a swift death. An RSPB researcher will be on hand to ensure all goes to plan.

The island, a dependency of St Helena, has no native mammals or inhabitants but is an important military base for both Britain and America. It is the staging post for all military flights to the Falklands, and the vast runway, carved between volcanic mountains, is a reserve landing strip for American space-shuttle flights. The island also has a relay station for BBC World Service transmissions.

The rat-killing programme is the biggest yet attempted and, with the removal of the wild cats, will bring an immediate increase in masked boobies and, in the long term, will help red-footed boobies, down to only a few dozen breeding pairs. Smaller birds such as shearwaters and petrels, almost extinct in Ascension, may return slowly.

Britain's 13 dependent territories, mostly remote islands, are valued increasingly as breeding sites and migratory resting places for birds.



Pope seeks his 'lost sheep' in Rio visit

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

THE Pope flew to Rio de Janeiro yesterday for a four-day visit to the largest Roman Catholic country, seemingly on a "mission" to win back millions of Brazilians who have in the past years defected to emerging evangelical churches and Pentecostal sects.

During the flight he quashed speculation that the late Mother Teresa would be put on a fast track to sainthood, saying the process would follow its normal course.

The ageing and ailing Pope will have to brave tropical heat and high humidity levels when he presides over ceremonies in the Maracana football stadium and on Rio's three-mile Flamengo Beach, where he will celebrate Mass for about four million people.

The visit is seen as a timely effort to win back "lost sheep". Since the Pope's last visit to Brazil in 1980, millions of Brazilians have abandoned the Roman Catholic Church in favour of a growing number of evangelical churches, Pentecostal sects, Baptist groups and African religions.

"The Pope's visit will enforce our drive to win back followers to the Catholic Church," said Cardinal Eugenio Sales, of Rio. "His presence will return many lost sheep to the fold."

Out of 160 million Brazilians, 131 million are Catholic, but 40 per cent say they only go to church once a month. "We have lost too many of our faithful followers. The other churches have gained on us because they have updated some of their views," said Father Jesus Horal, a theologist.

The Pope's visit will raise some controversial issues. He is expected to make a speech against abortion, which is illegal but widely practised in Brazil.

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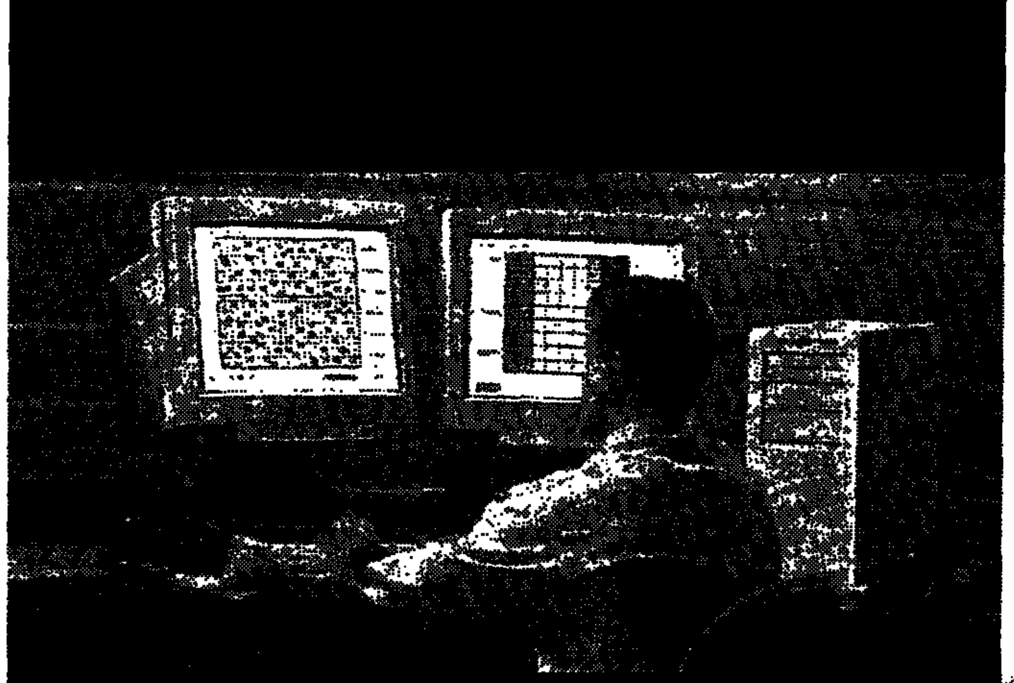

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Amsterdam signing clears euro decks

Maastricht's successor is held to have failed in its main task of revamping the EU to prepare for new members from East Europe, **Charles Bremner** reports

FAINT praise was the order of the day when ministers yesterday signed the European Union's new Treaty of Amsterdam, a text deemed modest enough to avoid the dramas over national ratification that nearly scuttled its grander predecessor from Maastricht.

As some 200 Dutch anarchists scuffled with police outside Amsterdam's royal palace, Douglas Henderson, the Minister for Europe, joined foreign ministers from the other 14 states in giving a send-off to the 312 articles produced by EU leaders in June. The ceremony opens the way to ratification next year by national parliaments in all states except Denmark, Portugal and Ireland. The Government is expected to call for a Commons vote in the spring.

Jacques Santer, the Commission President, led yesterday's effort to give the best gloss to a treaty widely deemed to have failed in its main task of revamping EU institutions to prepare for new members from the former Communist bloc.

"I don't hide the deficiencies, the weaknesses, the gaps," Mr Santer said. "But one must recognise that important progress has been made since the Treaty of Maastricht, notably as far as the citizen is concerned." This referred to the treaty's creation of a future frontier-free Europe, excluding Britain and Ireland, and the creation of an employment chapter that commits the EU to joint action to create jobs.

With the end of British objections, the treaty also takes the Social Chapter fully inside the EU's basic constitution. Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, called the treaty an important step forward, but added: "We still have some work to do."

The seeds of trouble for Britain were sown when the Government was forced to retreat this summer in a quarrel over what had been agreed on border controls. London thought it had won the right to opt into border-free travel, should it wish, after a majority vote from its partners. With an eye on Gibraltar, Spain insisted on a unanimous backing. In Brussels this week Peter Caruana, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, said that gave Spain a potential veto.

Kinkel: said more work needed to be done

Testimony to the sour taste left by Amsterdam came with this month's declaration appended to the official text by Belgium, France and Italy. This states that the leaders failed to prepare the Union for enlargement, notably by revamping the Commission and extending majority voting among member states, and calls for a new treaty before more members join.

EU leaders are optimistic that the treaty's mild advance to deeper European integration means Danes will not repeat the rejection they inflicted on Maastricht in 1992, requiring renegotiation and a second vote the next year. A treaty crisis would be a big distraction from monetary union, the fruit of Maastricht which towers over all other EU preoccupations.

Polls show a majority of Danes in favour of the treaty, but passions over Europe could be raised at the time of the spring referendum as it may coincide with the choice of single-currency members.

The need to clear the decks for the euro, due to be launched in January 1999, was one reason why more federal-minded leaders backed away from a fight at Amsterdam. Fear of fanning German misgivings over the euro was apparently behind the resistance of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, to the extension of centralised EU powers over immigration and other issues.

The conclusion of the two laborious years of negotiations is welcome timing for Britain, which takes over the EU presidency from Luxembourg in January. Tony Blair and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, want an end to squabbling over institutions and to see the EU's focus firmly on jobs and "the people".

For EU buffs, the Commission has put the full text of the treaty, along with the newly modified treaties of Rome and Maastricht, on to its Internet site — www.ue.eu.int

For simplification drafters have renumbered the hundreds of existing treaties' articles, angering officials, lawyers and diplomats who have spent years learning them by heart. Their shorthand involves referring to key articles by number.

Somali model to join UN campaign

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

WARIS DIRIE, a circumcised Somali nomad who became a Pirelli calendar girl and supermodel, has been appointed a special ambassador for the United Nations campaign against female genital mutilation.

Miss Dirie, who believes she is now 29, was one of 12 children in a nomadic family in the Somali desert. At the age of five she had her clitoris removed with a dirty razor and her vagina stitched up. Her parents announced: "You have bad things between your legs and they have to be removed."

The future model ran away at the age of 13 when her father tried to marry her to a 60-year-old man in exchange for five camels. An uncle, then serving as Somalia's Ambassador to Britain, took her to London as a maid. She got a job scrubbing floors at McDonald's and went to night school, but was spotted by a photographer and went on to a modelling career.

The UN estimates that circumcision has been performed on more than 130 million girls and women in Africa and the Middle East, and says more than two million are at risk every year.

Miss Dirie, who lives in New York, recently had a child and is engaged to a jazz musician.

BEBETO MATTHEWS / AP

Waris Dirie, a victim of female circumcision, is to lobby against the practice

Nato bill splits Britain and US

FROM MICHAEL EVANS
IN MAASTRICHT

WILLIAM COHEN, the American Defence Secretary, warned European governments yesterday to stop pretending that Nato expansion was going to be cost-free.

His warning came as European members of Nato continued to insist that the invitation to Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary to join the alliance would not mean any increase in defence spending for existing members. The issue of cost is developing into a serious disagreement between America and Europe.

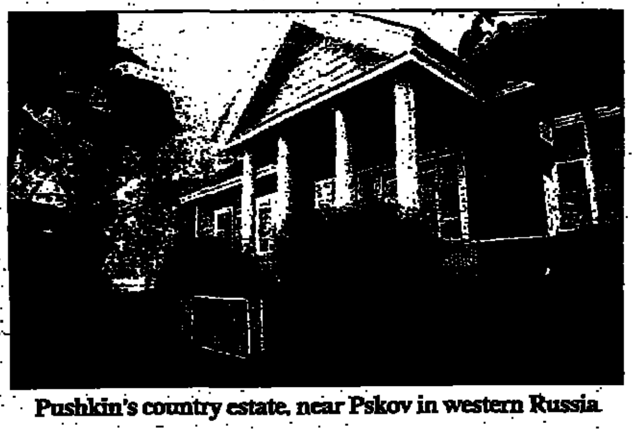
At a press conference at the end of the two-day Nato meeting, Mr Cohen said: "The bulk of the expansion costs will be borne by the three new members. But there will be cost increases for everyone, for the US and for [other] Nato members." He said it was essential that Nato members spent more on improving their rapid deployment capabilities.

According to Nato sources, Mr Cohen told his alliance counterparts that he had to convince the United States Congress they had done their sums properly in calculating the real cost of expansion.

Congress would not believe the European argument that the bill for taking in three new members could be met by simply "reprioritising" defence budgets, he said. Yet this has been the British Government's argument. Its case is that Nato expansion may cost Britain an estimated £50 million a year but that this can be absorbed within the defence budget.

Pushkin lovers protest over theme park plan

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW



Pushkin's country estate, near Pskov in western Russia

RUSSIA'S cultural elite has declared war against the young curator of Alexander Pushkin's country estate because of plans to turn the property of the nation's best loved poet into a Western-style theme park.

In a move which has sparked a furore in the press and angry protests from writers and historians, Georgi Vasilevich has disclosed his intention to develop Pushkin's Mikhailovskoe estate into a profitable tourist business, in time for celebrations marking the 200th anniversary of the writer's birth in 1999.

The estate, located in western Russia near the city of Pskov, was granted to Pushkin's grandfather, Abraham Hannibal, an Ethiopian, by royal decree and at the time consisted of small villages containing 569 serfs. Pushkin's grandfather built the first house and park at the site in 1777 and the writer lived there on and off from 1817, including the years spent in internal exile from 1824-26. He was buried at a nearby monastery after he died in a duel with a French nobleman in 1837.

Since then Pushkin has become Russia's favourite poet and writer and there are several museums and institutes across Russia dedicated to his life and works. For Pushkin-lovers the Mikhailovskoe estate is the most important.

Mr Vasilevich, 33, argues that the days of mass Soviet tourism by schoolchildren and unions are over. Today the estate has fallen on hard times and attracts only about 100,000 visitors a year.

His radical solution is to build a complex, including hotels, restaurants and even saunas for rich visitors and to turn the existing site into a "model nobleman's estate", complete with serfs, straight out of the pages of Pushkin's own classic *Eugene Onegin*.

Not surprisingly, the plan has met with stiff resistance. Sergei Fomichev, a member of the Russian Academy of Science, has resigned his seat on the commission overseeing the Pushkin estate in protest. Some senior members of the museum staff have also quit and park-keepers have threatened to use themselves as human shields against bulldozers.

Irina Vrubel, an expert on the writer at the Pushkin Museum in Moscow, said plans for the new estate were likely to drive away the very Russians who loved the poet most. However, Olga Chuzhikova, the deputy director of the estate, said that the plans were in keeping with what the great poet would have wanted. Pushkin, she said, was a very active person. "He discarded the obsolete. He loved life and would have been happy that people enjoyed their visit to his home."

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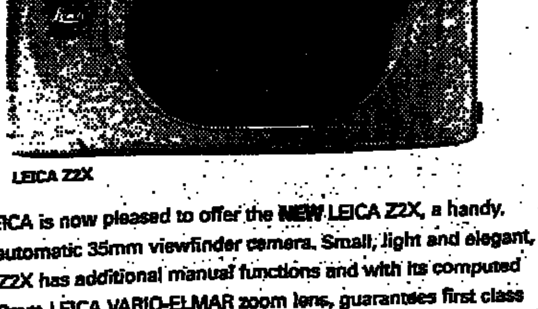

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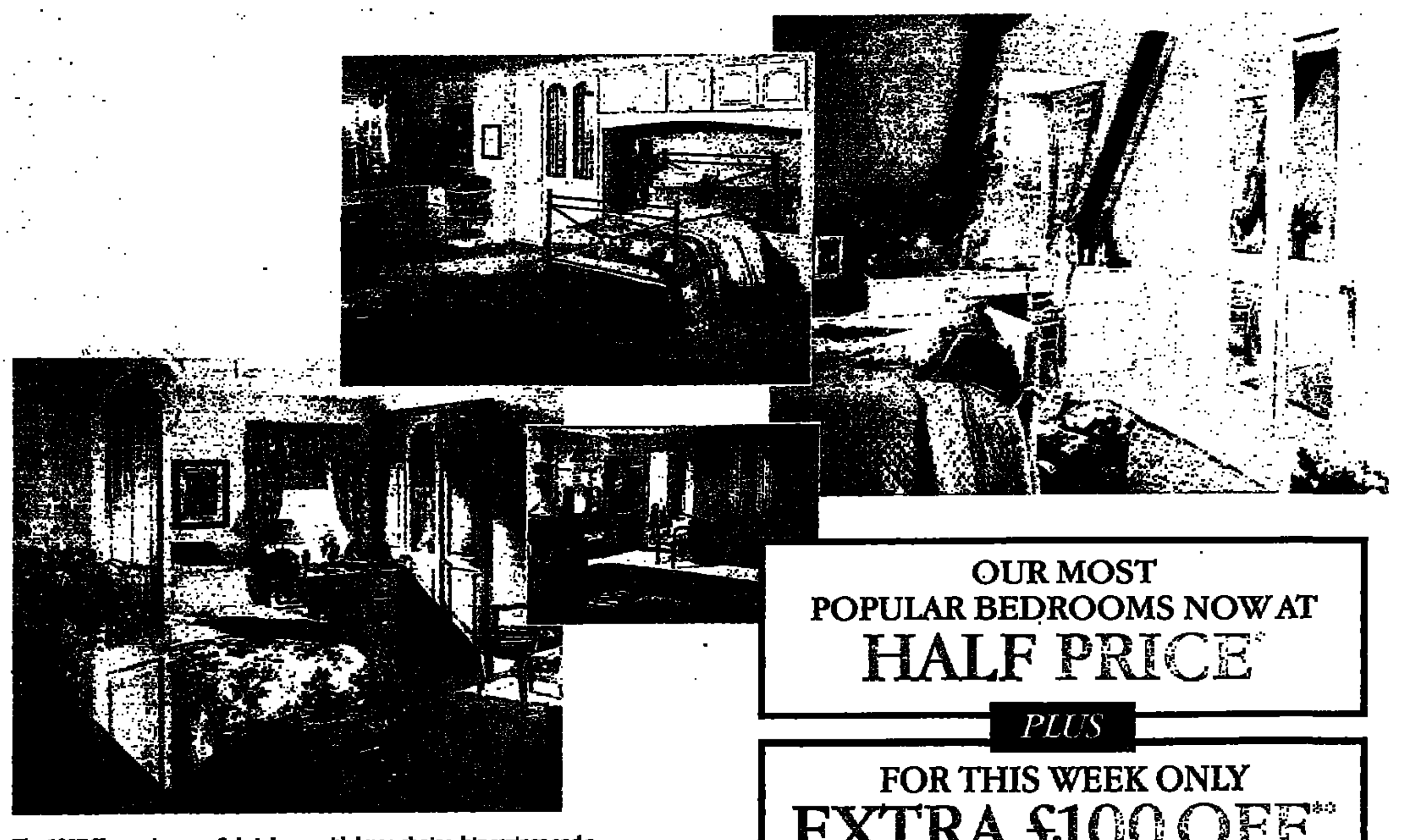

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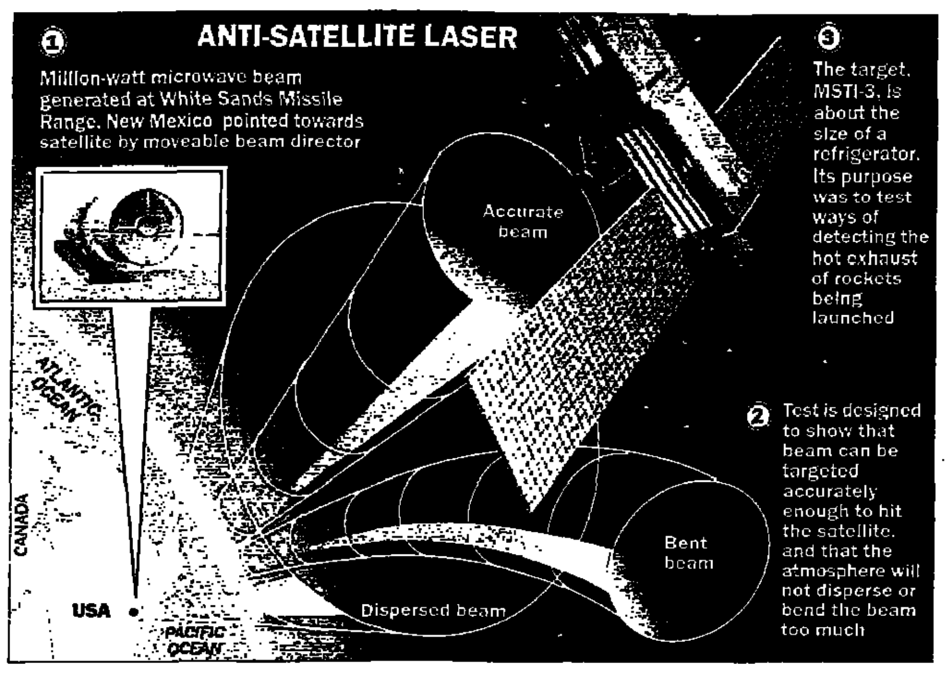
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①
Million-watt microwave beam generated at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico pointed towards satellite by moveable beam director
②
Test is designed to show that beam can be targeted accurately enough to hit the satellite, and that the atmosphere will not disperse or bend the beam too much
③
The target, MSTI-3, is about the size of a refrigerator. Its purpose was to test ways of detecting the hot exhaust of rockets being launched
Accurate beam
Bent beam
Dispersed beam
ATLANTIC OCEAN
PACIFIC OCEAN
CANADA
USA

US ready to unleash Star Wars laser

Pulses will aim at an orbiting military satellite in power test, Nigel Hawkes reports

THE United States is to go ahead with a plan to test a laser weapon against a satellite in orbit. Within the next few days a laser at White Sands missile base in New Mexico will fire two pulses at a military satellite 260 miles above the Earth.

The aim is not to destroy the satellite, although the laser is believed to be capable of it, but to gather information about its power, pointing ability and the effect of the atmosphere on the beam. "This is to be done for one reason, and one reason alone, to test the vulnerability or potential vulnerability of American satellites to lasers," said Ken Bacon, a spokesman for William Cohen, the American Defence Secretary, after a meeting of Nato defence ministers in Maastricht yesterday.

In the next few days, weather permitting, Mr Bacon said, the Mid-Infra-Red Advance Chemical Laser (Miracl) would fire a one-second burst to locate the satellite and a second burst lasting around ten seconds to see what impact the laser has on the satellite. The laser's target will be the US Air Force Miniature Sensor Technology Integration programme's third satellite (MSTI-3), which was launched in May 1996.

The million-watt laser is driven by a rocket motor which burns a fuel, ethylene, with an oxidiser, nitrogen trifluoride. Among the combustion products are free fluorine atoms, which are mixed with deuterium and helium just downstream of the combuster. The deuterium combines with the fluorine to produce excited molecules of deuterium fluoride, while the helium stabilises the reaction. As the deuterium fluoride molecules return to their ground state, they release microwaves, which are reflected by mirrors placed around the exhaust gases.

The microwaves form a powerful laser beam at a wavelength of between 3.6 and 4.2 microns, which is pointed at the satellite by a beam director. The laser is the most powerful continuously operating laser in America, and has shown its ability to shoot down aircraft in flight. It has blasted five BQM-34 pilotless drones and a supersonic Vandal missile out of the sky.

The test is the most dramatic demonstration yet of a technology developed under President Reagan's Star Wars initiative. Critics have said that it threatens to reopen the anti-satellite warfare race among nations which have observed a de facto moratorium since 1980. Spurgeon Keeny, executive director of the Arms Control Association, has called the test "provocative and wholly unnecessary". Specialists in arms control have long argued that satellites are a stabilising influence on the arms race, because they provide intelligence about what the other side is doing.

Blinding them by lasers or other sophisticated devices thus risks upsetting the balance and encouraging a new race in which military satellites are "hardened" to protect them against attack. But Washington says that its test is purely defensive.

American faces firing squad in Cuba terror trial

From David Adams in Miami

CUBA says he is a "highly dangerous mercenary" in the pay of Miami terrorists, and when his trial opens later today prosecutors have said they will ask that he be executed by a firing squad.

But in Miami, friends and relatives of Walter Van der Veer, 46, say he is a "religious romantic". Crazy perhaps, but not a killer.

If he is found guilty he could be the first American to be executed in Cuba for more than 30 years. United States officials are watching the case closely, but have made no official protests. That may be because Mr Van der Veer has not only admitted the charges: he says he wants to die.

"The [Cuban] Government is asking for my death. This does not bother me," he wrote recently to his wife from jail. "I am no coward and I have asked this Government 159 times to please shoot me so that I can die with honour. I will ask ... for the 160th time at my trial to be shot ... I hope they say yes. I do not want to live in this world any more."

Mr Van der Veer was arrested in August 1996 and charged with "promoting armed action against Cuba and other acts against the security of the state". He is also accused of distributing anti-communist political propaganda depicting President Castro as an "assassin" and calling for a popular uprising.

Mr Van der Veer's wife, Nancy Vázquez, has denied that he was on a terrorist mission in Cuba. Instead, she said he travelled to the island carrying "humanitarian aid" and was motivated by "his concern for Cuban children and Christian values".

She said she had been unable to speak to her husband since his arrest and had not asked for permission to attend the trial. "That could be very dangerous for me," she said, without elaborating.

Havana says he was caught in possession of "military equipment", including two US Army-syle camouflage uniforms, a compass, camouflage makeup, a helmet with camouflage netting, and military-issue underwear.

According to the charges against him, "all this represents startup supplies for people in Cuba whom he would bring together, organise and arm, for an eventual armed uprising". Mr Van der Veer's was allegedly paid "undisclosed sums of money" by anti-Castro groups in Miami to "carry out these acts to bring down the Cuban state".

But friends say Mr Van der Veer, born in Florida with no Cuban ancestry, was a highly independent man obsessed by his quixotic goal of bringing God's word to Cuba.

He made no secret of his desire to topple Señor Castro. In 1989 he tried to drive a souped-up jet ski to Cuba to plant an American flag on a beach and leave behind a "message from God" calling for peace. The craft broke down after about 20 miles and he nearly drowned before he was rescued.

Analysts of the Miami exile community say there are suspicious gaps in the official story that lead some to believe Mr Van der Veer may be the victim of an elaborate Cuban government set-up. Cuban exile groups in Miami are notoriously infiltrated by Cuban state security agents.

AP / NASA

Russian cosmonaut Vladimir Titov, right, and US astronaut Scott Parazynski — both in American spacesuits — work in the payload bay of the space shuttle *Atlantis* near the end of a five-hour spacewalk yesterday (Tom Rhodes writes). The two had been ferried to Mir to help to repair collision damage. Their mission in outer space, which included packing experiments for return to Earth with the British-born astronaut Michael Foale in *Atlantis* on Sunday and testing emergency jet-powered backpacks, was a success. It came hours after Mir's ten crew brought online a computer to replace one that has played havoc with the space station's power management and navigation.

Spacewalk boost for Mir

WORLD SUMMARY

Payout in cooking oil case

Madrid: The Supreme Court convicted two former government officials of negligence and ordered the state to pay compensation of up to £185,000 to victims or their relatives in one of the world's deadliest food-poisoning cases. About 500 people were killed and more than 20,000 disabled after eating food prepared with industrial oil sold as cooking oil in 1981. Miguel Hernández Bolanos and Federico Povedano Alonso were found guilty of negligence for allowing the oil into Spain. Both received six-year suspended sentences. *(AP)*

More face fraud inquiry at UN

Geneva: The United Nations is investigating several new cases of large-scale fraud after the successful prosecution last week of a senior official in Geneva who embezzled £343,000 (Peter Capella writes). Karl Theodor Paschke, the head of the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services, said that at least three cases involving more than £300,000 each were being pursued in several countries. At least one is ready for criminal prosecution.

Prodi urged to scrap budget

Rome: Italy's hard-left Communist Refoundation party ended hopes for a quick resolution of a political crisis by insisting the Government's deficit-cutting 1998 budget be scrapped. Refoundation's leader, Fausto Bertinotti, rejected a trades union confederation plea to resolve the crisis, which could topple the Government. He objects to welfare and pension cuts. *(Reuter)*

Leading article, page 21

Mbeki requests an amnesty

Johannesburg: Thabo Mbeki, South African's Deputy President, is seeking amnesty for unspecified crimes during the fight against apartheid, Ronnie Mamoepa, an African National Congress (ANC) party spokesman said. Mr Mbeki is widely expected to succeed President Mandela when he retires as head of state in 1999. *(Reuters)*

Heat is on for beer drinkers

Villahermosa, Mexico: The scorchingly hot Mexican state of Tabasco is banning the sale of cold beer to help to curtail alcoholism, prompting protests. Sales of warm beer will remain legal. *(Reuters)*

Korea war 'was close in 1994'

Washington: America came close to declaring war on North Korea three years ago, even preparing a military force, in a dispute over Pyongyang's nuclear programme, according to a new book about the divided Asian peninsula (Tom Rhodes writes).

Washington was increasingly anxious about North Korea's ability to create nuclear bombs and the Pentagon had plans in place to launch a full-scale war that could have claimed hundreds of thousands of casualties.

The nuclear dispute was widely reported, but *The Two Koreas* by Don Oberdorfer, a former *Washington Post* reporter, claims a new depth to the crisis. "We all thought we were going to war," General Gary Luck, the then US military commander in Korea, is quoted as saying.

He and James Laney, US Ambassador in Seoul, set up an evacuation plan for the 80,000 American civilians in South Korea. Jimmy Carter, the former President, tried — eventually successfully — to defuse the crisis in meetings with a Kim Il Sung, then North Korea's President.

La Lollo, left, and La Loren, who aim to bury the hatchet with their first joint appearance on film

Fiery spirits of screen lose ardour for feud

From Richard Owen in Rome

THE two rival *grandes dames* of Italian cinema, Sophia Loren and Gina Lollobrigida, have patched up their long-running feud and plan to star in a film together for the first time: a remake of the 1962 classic *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?*

La Loren and La Lollo have been at daggers drawn for most of their careers. But time has reportedly mellowed the two actresses, both noted for their fiery spirit as well as their *décolletage*. Lollobrigida turned 70 this summer while Loren is 63. Lollobrigida told Italian television negotiations were well advanced for a new version of *Baby Jane*. She said she thought she would take the Bette Davis role as the malicious and murderous Jane, with Sophia as the apparent victim, Jane's sister Blanche (played by Joan Crawford in the original), a former star confined to a wheelchair.

Lollobrigida said that she and Loren had "let each other know, through mutual friends", that they were willing to work together.

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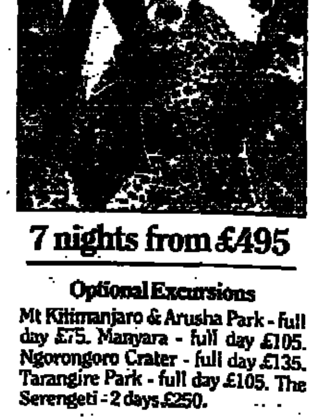

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Mossad abuse of passports angers Canada

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

CANADA yesterday warned Israel over what it claims may have been the "improper use" of Canadian passports by Mossad agents who tried to assassinate a senior Hamas official in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

Khaled Meshaal, the head of the Hamas political office in Amman, was attacked by two men posing as Canadian tourists who sprayed him with a debilitating chemical. He suffered convulsions, but survived.

Suspicions were raised when the two captured would-be assassins refused offers of Canadian consular help in Amman and their two accomplices, also travelling on Canadian passports, disappeared from their Amman hotel. The two arrested men asked Canadian diplomats not to publish their names.

The new diplomatic controversy threatened to revive a bitter dispute over Mossad men using false Canadian documents prompted by the publication in 1990 of the memoirs of the Canadian-born former Mossad agent, Victor Ostrovsky, which Israel tried to get banned in Canada and America.

In *By Way of Deception*, the former Israeli agent spoke of seeing a large number of blank Canadian passports in a Mossad "factory". Mr Ostrovsky wrote: "I saw a large batch of Canadian passports. They must have been stolen. It looked like an entire shipment. There were over 1,000 of them."

Yesterday Lloyd Axworthy, the Canadian Foreign Minister, pledged further action against Israel once he meets Fayez al-Tarawneh, the Jordanian Foreign Minister, today in New York to unravel the mystery. Asked if the question of Mossad use of Canadian passports had not been resolved several years ago, Mr Axworthy replied pointedly: "It was resolved then."

Jean Chrétien, the Canadian Prime Minister, told parliament in Ontario: "It is completely unacceptable to this Government that anybody authorised by another Government will use a Canadian passport to perpetrate any illegal action."

The Canadian diplomatic warning came as Israel radio broadcast new disclosures from the Canadian press that the Jordanian authorities were searching for two more men carrying Canadian passports in addition to the two in custody and alleged to be part of a secret deal which prompted Israel to free Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the jailed Hamas founder, and allow him to fly to Amman. Israeli government officials have refused to deny stories that the two prisoners' freedom will eventually be secured.

All four Canadian passport holders are widely suspected to have been part of a Mossad hit squad which mounted a botched operation to poison Mr Meshaal.

They all checked into Amman's luxury Intercontinental Hotel two weeks ago, but two have disappeared and diplomats believe they are already back in Israel.

Last night Israel radio reported that "members of the [Israeli] intelligence community" and a leading Arab Knesset member, Taleb al-Sanaa, were separately asking for a full inquiry into the reports that the attack on Mr Meshaal was a Mossad operation which went badly wrong. The Israeli Arab politician called on Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, to apologise to the intended victim and his family.

☐ **Amman:** Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian Authority's President, accompanied by King Hussein, visited Sheikh Yassin in hospital. Hamas leaders said they expected the sheikh to return home to Palestinian-ruled Gaza within two weeks. *(Reuters)*

Top Arafat official quits

Jerusalem: Haider Abdel-Shafi, 77, a senior and respected Palestinian legislator, resigned yesterday over the failure of Yassir Arafat to root out corruption inside his Palestinian Authority (Christopher Walker writes). There is rising discontent over the greed and incompetence of Palestinian leaders, some of whom have siphoned off huge sums of international aid. Their actions have increased support for Hamas.

Shortest man in the world dies aged 36

Gul Mohammed, who spent most of his life in the crowded alleys of old Delhi

Dangerous life among misfits was lightened by dream of tall actress wife, **Christopher Thomas** writes

THE world's shortest man, who dreamed of marrying a tall actress, has died. He was a familiar figure scampering through the fetid alleys of old Delhi, where he spent most of his life amid a dangerous mêlée of bullock carts, rickshaws and crowds who were for ever treading on him.

He was as much a part of this largely Muslim quarter of town as the bespangled eunuchs who strut about its lanes, or the deformed beggars, the transvestites, and the long-bearded holy men proclaiming doom. It is a world of misfits, unknown to most Delhi-wallahs because it seems so aggressive and frightening. Here Gul Mohammed, 36, was normal. The commotion of the alleys would ease a little whenever he was seen raising his tiny hand, his high voice inaudible above the racket, to try to cross through the warren of alleyways. At 22.5in, he was too short to leap across the open sewers and would have been out of his depth had he slipped into the bigger gullies.

He was carried across these obstacles by whoever was at hand. The people of this poor and outwardly brutish section of town gave their hearts to the little man who lived mostly on handouts but who rose briefly to fame when he was proclaimed the shortest man by *The Guinness Book of Records*. The walled city, with so little to be proud of, was thrilled by the celebrity of one of its citizens.

Mr Mohammed eventually moved away from the hazardous turmoil of old Delhi to a less manic, but equally poor, neighbourhood in east Delhi. His departure was lamented by the tea-shop owners who propped him onto their counters for a free chai and by the eunuchs who were his friends. He chain-smoked all his life and died in hospital after a long struggle with asthma and bronchitis. He never overcame a lifelong dislike of children, who mocked and bullied him, forcing him to give up school and to begin scratching a living selling sweetmeats. Children often stole from him, but they were too fast to catch and too big to reprimand. Cats, crows and dogs were enemies, too. "I am scared of them," he said.

He often talked to the eunuchs about his dreams because they never laughed at him. To see him on the shoulders of one of these sari-clad castrated men, who prefer to be known as women, strong arms holding him in place, was to see two people brought together by their own oddness, both of them comfortable in this slightly insane backwater of Delhi, where it is normal to be different.

> ❛ He never overcame a dislike of children, who bullied and robbed him ❜

Hotline diplomacy fails to end Kashmir border duel

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

THE battle of guns and words between India and Pakistan over Kashmir continued for a third day yesterday, threatening to destroy efforts at reconciliation painstakingly worked out over the past year.

The Prime Ministers of both countries talked over a recently installed hotline, but there was no immediate halt to cross-border fighting, although its intensity decreased. Kashmiri officials said the death of more than 30 Indian civilians had brought home the need to create civil defence committees and civilian bunkers along the boundary, known as the line of control.

India claimed that it had destroyed dozens of Pakistani Army bunkers and said its forces stopped shooting while Pakistani troops removed the bodies of 51 soldiers. Both sides are given to exaggeration, but this is one of the worst outbreaks of cross-border conflict in years and emphasises the ease with which the two countries could slip into a fourth war.

Indian and Pakistani troops routinely take pot shots at one another in Kashmir, but the use of artillery has led some Indian commentators to accuse Pakistan of an act of war. The Indian Government, however, is moderating its language in the hope of defusing a crisis that seems to have been provoked deliberately, perhaps by "hawks" in the Pakistan Army worried by efforts in Delhi and Islamabad to improve relations.

Inder Kumar Gujral, the Indian Prime Minister, told Nawaz Sharif, his Pakistani counterpart, that he was deeply concerned. The government-run All India Radio described the conversation as cordial.

Pakistan said it had protested to India about what it called unprovoked heavy shelling across the line of control. "We deplore this irresponsible act," the Foreign Ministry said.

Mr Sharif said that Pakistan might review its policy towards the process of bilateral dialogue in view of the "latest Indian attitude".

▸ REWARDING TIMES ◂

A unique opportunity to attend

LONDON FASHION WEEK

To celebrate London Fashion Week, *Times* readers are offered exclusive tickets for catwalk shows at the Natural History Museum, London SW7, between noon and 8pm today for only £14, with a limited number of front row seats for £25.

In a spectacular show, Vidal Sassoon presents *The Private View*, featuring the clothes 20 top British designers, including Amanda Wakeley, Ben de Lisi, Ally Capellino, Clements Ribeiro, Pearce Fionda, Workers for Freedom, Nicole Farhi, Roland Klein and Sonja Nuttall. The shows, which support Macmillan Cancer Relief, will unveil the designers' autumn-winter collections and give a preview of spring-summer 1998 collections. Visitors have the chance to purchase discounted end-of-season clothes courtesy of BAA McArthur Glen, the designer-outlet specialist. Every reader who attends a show receives a Vidal Sassoon goodie bag.

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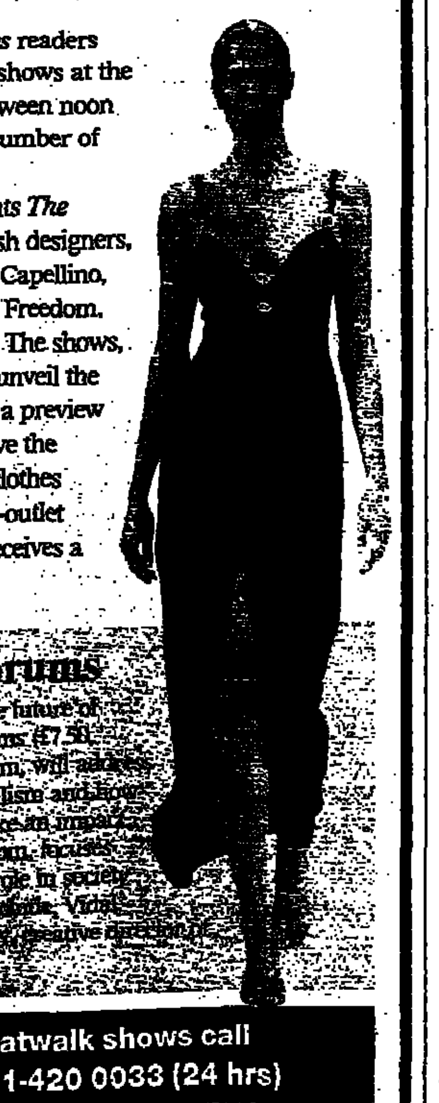
THE TIMES



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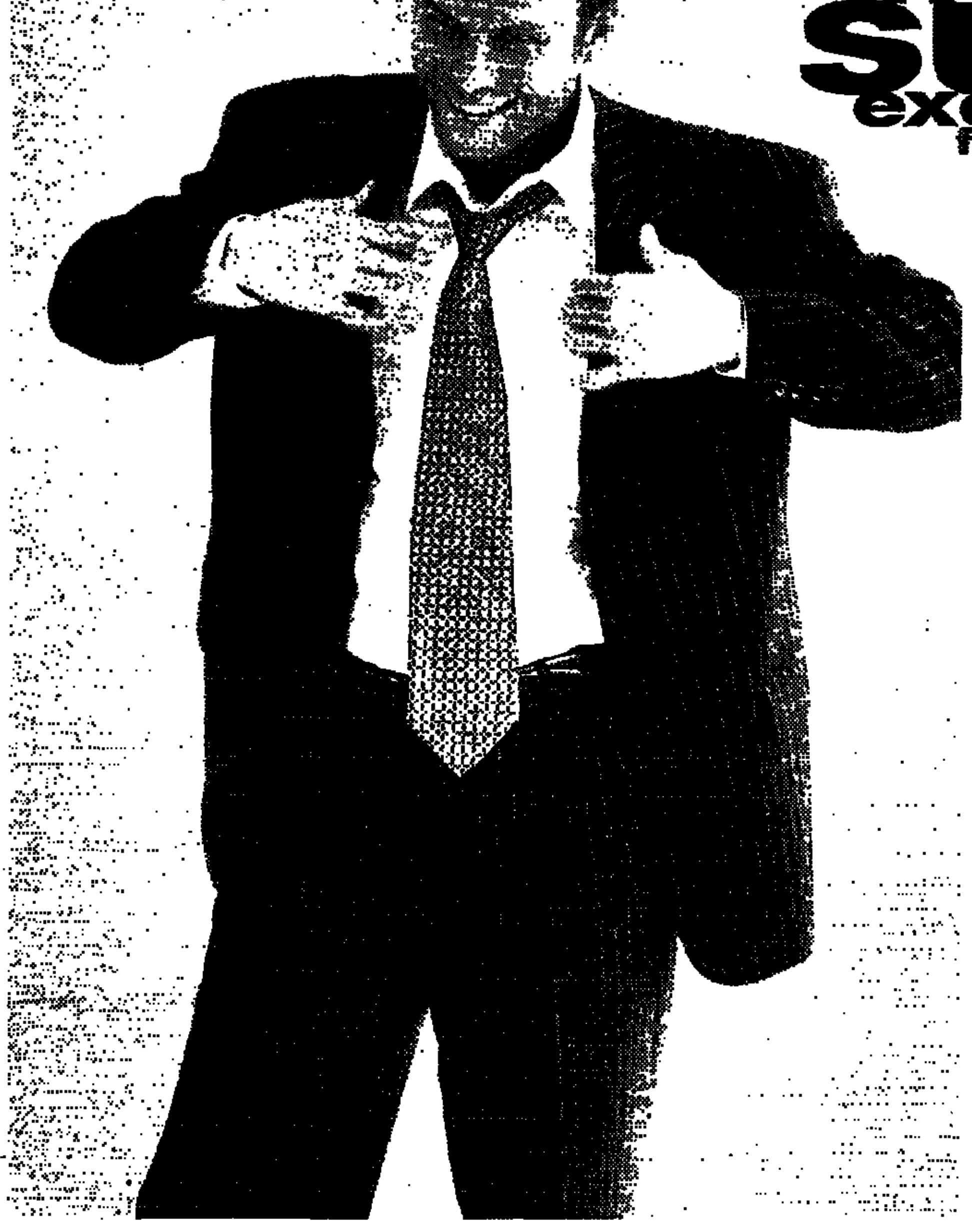


هكذا من الإصل

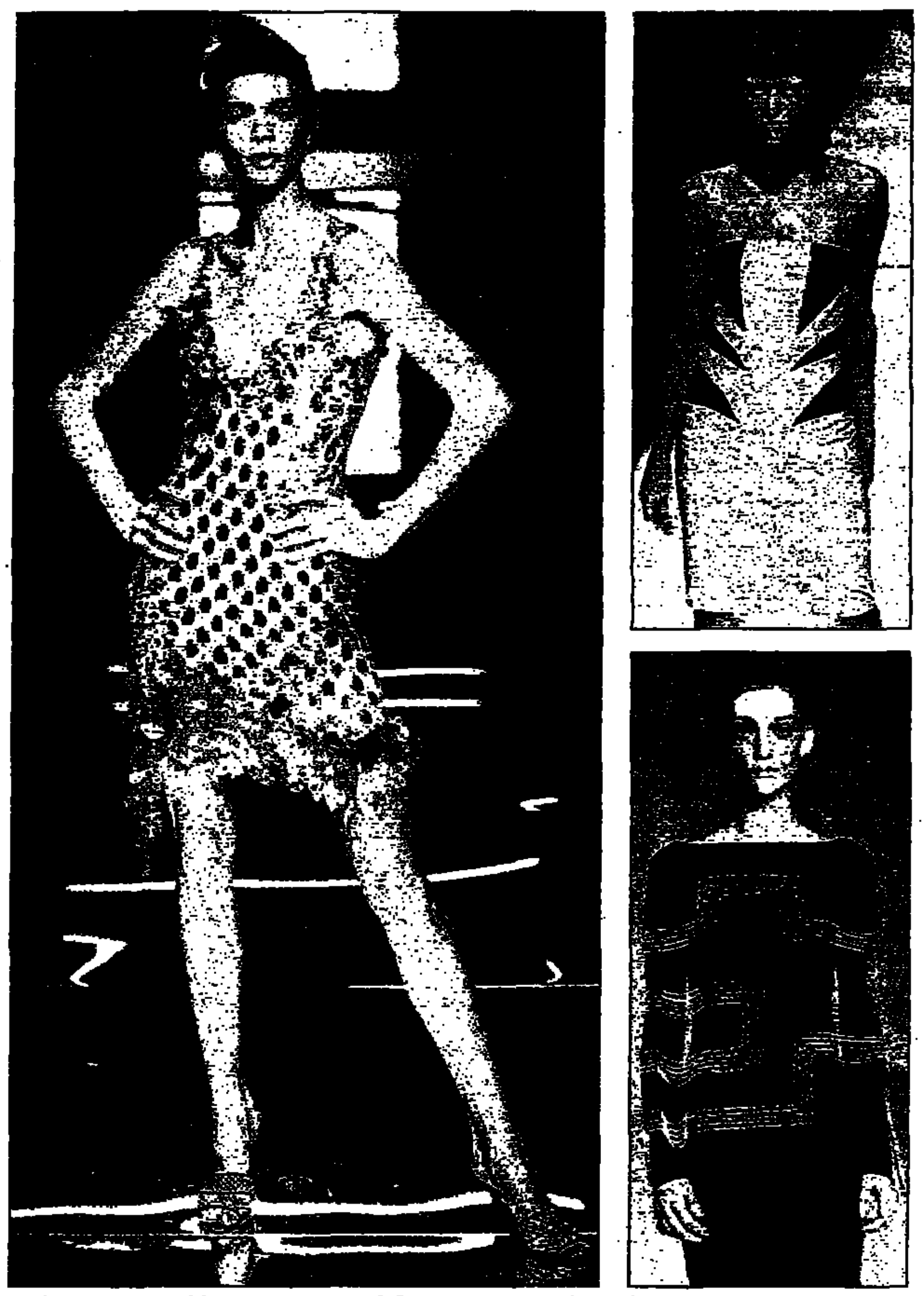
The wilder shores of chic

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS MOORE, SIMON WALKER AND DES JENSON

London Fashion Week had everything to offer from urban warriors and birds of paradise to sawn-off yashmaks and a swarm of flies. Style Editor **Grace Bradberry** reports

The new tailoring: Sonja Nuttall's asymmetric wrap skirt, left; Nicole Farhi's drawstring slouch pants

Arts and crafts: stripes and lacework at Clements Ribeiro, left; embroidery and flummery at Matthew Williamson



Julien MacDonald's couture finery, left; aggro chic at Alexander McQueen, top; Hussein Chalayan's beadwork, bottom; Antonio Berardi's divisive American Dream, right

Designers have some funny ideas about women and nowhere are the fantasies wilder, the visions grander, than in London. This season has seen a stampede of urban warriors, bevies of operatic tarts, and a flock of paradisal birds filling the catwalks. So it was only fitting that all three should come together for the final show, that of the Welsh knitting wizard Julien MacDonald staging his first catwalk event, in Spitalfields Market.

The 25-year-old, whose exquisite designs have featured on the Chanel catwalk, is known for his bejewelled crochet work, harking back to Edwardian opulence. Tuesday night's show began with a surprisingly modern, sports-influenced ready-to-wear collection that owed something to Hervé Leger's elastic body-moulding, with Masai patterned bands criss-crossing the body. This proved to be just a base. MacDonald's instincts are those of the magpie. Beginning with large black sequins along the hem (echoes of Miu Miu), he gradually loaded his slinky silhouettes with teardrop beads, exotic flora, feathers, fringing and even steel wool. The couture pieces — which sell for about £5,000 — managed to fuse rainforest abundance with a minimalist aesthetic. These are knock 'em dead dresses for the 1990s Wow Girl.

MacDonald was justifiably one of the week's hot tickets. The others were Hussein Chalayan, Alexander McQueen, Clements Ribeiro and Antonio Berardi, all of whom have emerged in the past five years and have been nominated for Best British Designer at the Fashion Awards.

If one had to attach labels, Chalayan would be the intellectual, McQueen the neo-punk, Clements Ribeiro the luxurious Bohemians, and Berardi the Galliano-influenced showman. With the exception of Berardi, whose show was an eclectic adventure from Sicily to New Jersey, Miami and Las Vegas, these designers honed their styles, paring away the extraneous detail to highlight their particular strengths.

Chalayan, Turkish Cypriot born, and London raised, staged his most conceptual show yet. A string quartet dressed in white boiler suits, played atonal music in a Brick Lane warehouse. The final set-piece was ludicrous but stunning: a model, naked but for an Islamic veil, was followed by five more women in longer and longer yashmaks. Chalayan is a ruminative designer who builds his style season by season. The black dresses with spirograph and maze effect goldwork were exquisite.

While Chalayan's shows are intended to be an expression of his design philosophy, McQueen's unabashedly are not. The yob couturier, who now designs Givenchy as well as his own label, made his name with shocking "concept" collections. But he's gradually rid the styling of gimmicks. Katy England, the creative director of his shows, scarcely tampered with the brilliant, hard-edged tailoring, perfectly cut trousers and deceptively simple white dresses. McQueen's urban combat instincts are gradually finding a sophisticated direction — the camouflage colours had a high-fashion feel, while the zips circling the hips of his all-in-one trouser and skirt suits dragged Sid Vicious off to finishing school.

Clements Ribeiro also consolidated and defined their well-established style. Their signature striped cashmere knits came dipped in sequins and glitter, while their apron-back minidresses had a minimalist, North European feel.

Opinion was divided on Berardi. The show was spectacular, but afterwards, the word "misogyny" was mumbled by some, offended by the belt-width pelmet miniskirts and dresses split to the waist. But the workmanship was superb, the colours spectacular, and the flowered V-neck knits will be snapped up.

Orchids, peacock feathers and all manner of plumes and flummery preoccupied designers such as Matthew Williamson. Wrap skirts with jutting, uneven hems featured at Sonja Nuttall, and layering, particularly tunics and split minis over trousers, was everywhere. Nicole Farhi came up with superb slouch pants.

A final word about the alleged new talent of the season, 25-year-old Andrew Groves, who dragged the fashion pack off to a disused bus depot in Victoria. The clothes were ghastly — but the show provided one glorious fashion moment: a model opened her jacket releasing a swarm of flies, no doubt lovingly collected in some dank student bedsit. By the time they emerged, the insects were half-dead and fell at the feet of appalled front-row ticket-holders, who performed mercy killings with their Gucci heels.

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'They can't come back from this. They're becoming a joke'

In our second extract from **Anthony Seldon's** book he describes how John Major's campaign was derailed by sleaze

ADAM BUTLER

John Major and Margaret Thatcher campaigning on Teesside: behind the bonhomie the atmosphere was tense

At 12.35pm on March 17 on his return from Buckingham Palace, John Major walked out of No 10 to announce that the general election would be held on May 1. As he faced the media, he told them that there had been a "dramatic change in the lifestyle of the people of this country ..." and that "people are looking for change". To combat at the outset what was seen as Labour's strongest card, he declared: "But we are the change, and we will carry forward what we have been doing for the last 18 years ... I believe this election is winnable ... I think we are going to win." But even then he did not think the election winnable: if he could have limited it to a Labour majority of 20 or 30, he would have been delighted.

From the start, however, little went to plan: "sleaze" overshadowed the first two weeks. The opening shot was first Liberal Democrats and then Labour accusing Major of deliberately proroguing Parliament early to avoid the publication of Sir Gordon Downey's "cash for questions" inquiry. The charge captured the headlines and undercut "good news" stories, mainly that unemployment had fallen by 60,000.

Labour and Liberal Democrats succeeded in disrupting the first week of the campaign and in implying that the Tory leadership itself was guilty of sleaze by keeping the truth from coming out. When *The Guardian* ran four pages of evidence submitted to the Downey inquiry, reportedly showing that several MPs standing for re-election had taken money from Mohamed Al Fayed in return for asking questions in Parliament, more support was given to the belief that the cover-up was to spare the party electoral damage.

Major was angered and upset by the first week of the campaign. By its end, he, Michael Heseltine and Brian Mawhinney were no closer to deciding how to respond to the sleaze accusations. When they realised how badly the campaign had been derailed, the tack shifted from stonewall defence to blaming both the MPs concerned for not resigning and their associations for backing them, a line that found itself in a *Sunday Express* headline on March 23: "Major wants the sleaze MPs out." By letting such stories get into the press, the party's high command raised the expectation that tough action would be taken, with charges of indecision when it was not.

In the second week, Allan Stewart quit Scotland's safest Tory seat after allegations of an affair, which overshadowed the best current account trade figures since 1985. Another MP, Tim Smith, quit on March 25 after admitting he had accepted £25,000 from Al Fayed, and a row over trade union rights was swamped. The next day *The Sun* ran a story about Piers Merchant, the Beckenham MP, allegedly having an affair with a nightclub hostess.

By now, Major, Heseltine and Mawhinney were losing their self-possession. The leadership suggested Merchant stand down, only to be rebuffed by his constituency association. Attempts to get Neil Hamilton to step aside were thwarted by his Tatton association. Major had so often felt let down by the behaviour of his MPs that he ceased to be surprised by anything they did, but Hamilton's decision to fight on left him speechless, above all because the Hamilton saga was portrayed by Labour both as a sign of Major's weak leadership and of the Tories' poor moral standards.

Two days after Merchant's headlines, Michael Hirst, the Scottish chairman, quit over a personal indiscretion. At the end of the second week, MORI put Labour 21 points ahead, Harris 24 — the biggest lead at that stage of a campaign since polling began.

Meanwhile, as Major addressed 1,100 readers of *The Sunday Times* on Tuesday evening, another political squall was brewing. Central Office learnt that John Horam, a junior Health Minister, had written an address disagreeing with the Tories' "wait and see" stance on the single currency. Mawhinney asked Horam if he would go on television and say he backed "wait and see". Horam said he had already recorded an interview for *Newsnight* defending his stance.

When Tony Blair was told about Horam he said: "They can't come back from this. They're becoming a joke."

Meanwhile, Major was pondering how to respond to the Government's collapsing policy on European monetary union, especially as he knew the next day's *Daily Mail* would suggest that up to 150 Tory candidates in winnable seats ruled out a single currency. Before 7.30am, Major was on the telephone to Lord Cranborne and Mawhinney. They felt that they had to scrap their plans to lead on the latest economic statistics at that morning's press conference. Mawhinney agreed that Major should chair the conference, to heighten the drama. Major told aides he would give his personal credo "hot and strong".

At the morning's meeting before the press conference, Major said that in every election there came a defining moment: "This is it." Maurice Saatchi was asked to film Major's statement, as he wanted to scrap the election broadcast planned for that evening and substitute one of him talking direct to camera, giving the same message on the single currency.

There were three takes, all without a script. The third was chosen, and Saatchi and Mawhinney oversaw its cutting. Broadcast that evening, it was not nearly as fine a piece of theatre as that morning's press conference. One observer likened it to a video of a jaded hostage filmed by his captors. *The Daily Telegraph* described it, accurately, as "a presidential appeal over the heads of his party".

The motorcade was an hour late leaving Central Office that morning for Northolt. Waiting for his plane to land at Teesside airport was Baroness Thatcher, due to spend the day with him on the trail. "I do want to be helpful, John," she said. It was an extraordinary meeting of two figures who, between them, had held the premiership for nearly a fifth of the century, yet had never enjoyed each other's company.

They spent the day campaigning, meeting candidates and workers, unveiling a plaque, planting a tree, and visiting the regenerated urban site of famous images of her in 1987 amid post-industrial wasteland. But behind the bonhomie, the atmosphere was tense. Major had no doubts about the damage she caused him during his premiership, nor had Norma, who sat on the coach pointedly looking out of the window. The atmosphere lightened tangibly when Lady Thatcher left them.

● *From* Major: A Political Life, *by Anthony Seldon, to be published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson on October 27, £25. Times readers can buy the book for £21 by calling the Times Bookshop. 0990 134 459*

A tale of Faust and the Devil

The harmony between some senior party figures and Maurice Saatchi was also to turn to discord as tensions resurfaced during the last two weeks of the campaign. Saatchi had a script for a party election broadcast — called "Faust", after the character who sold his soul to the Devil for short-term gain — and which had as its main character a figure in shadow, who sounded very like Tony Blair. He says that his party has lost many elections, but that he hopes to win this time. Another figure appears in shadow at the door — the likeness is to Mandelson — and says "I'll show you how to win". "Blair" listens as the other says "Tell them you won't put up taxes". "Blair" replies "I can't do that" and the standing figure says "I didn't say you shouldn't put up taxes, but you have got to tell them that you won't".

So it goes on, with the Blair figure goaded into making all kinds of pledges. At the end, with Faust's eyes glowing red, newspapers are shown with headlines such as "Blair promises not to put up taxes", etc.

Mawhinney rejected the Devil idea completely, but Saatchi kept trying to secure agreement that he should film it. After meeting Mawhinney in his room in the Commons, at which a No 10 aide shouted at him that Major was not interested in it and that he should drop the matter, Saatchi went ahead and had the film commissioned.

When he heard that not only had Saatchi made the film, but was showing it to senior figures to gain their support behind his back, Mawhinney exploded. But on seeing it, Lord Cranborne, Major's chief of staff, became a convert, and tried to convince Major of its merits. It was decided to hold a screening, to be attended by Heseltine, at Central Office on April 24. Mawhinney was to be the final arbiter. Some present thought it the most chilling and effective party election broadcast they had ever seen, but Heseltine did not like it, for three reasons: Major was against it; so was Mawhinney; and he himself thought it would prove counter-productive. Mawhinney insisted that Saatchi bear the cost of making the film.

The frustration of the Saatchi team was expressed by a person close to them: "There were two ways to approach the election. Be a gentleman, as if one were on the *Titanic*, and avoid being ungentlemanly as you go down. Or say, we are going to win come hell or high water, we'll do anything we need to win, as long as it is legal." The Tory high command could not decide which route it wanted to take.

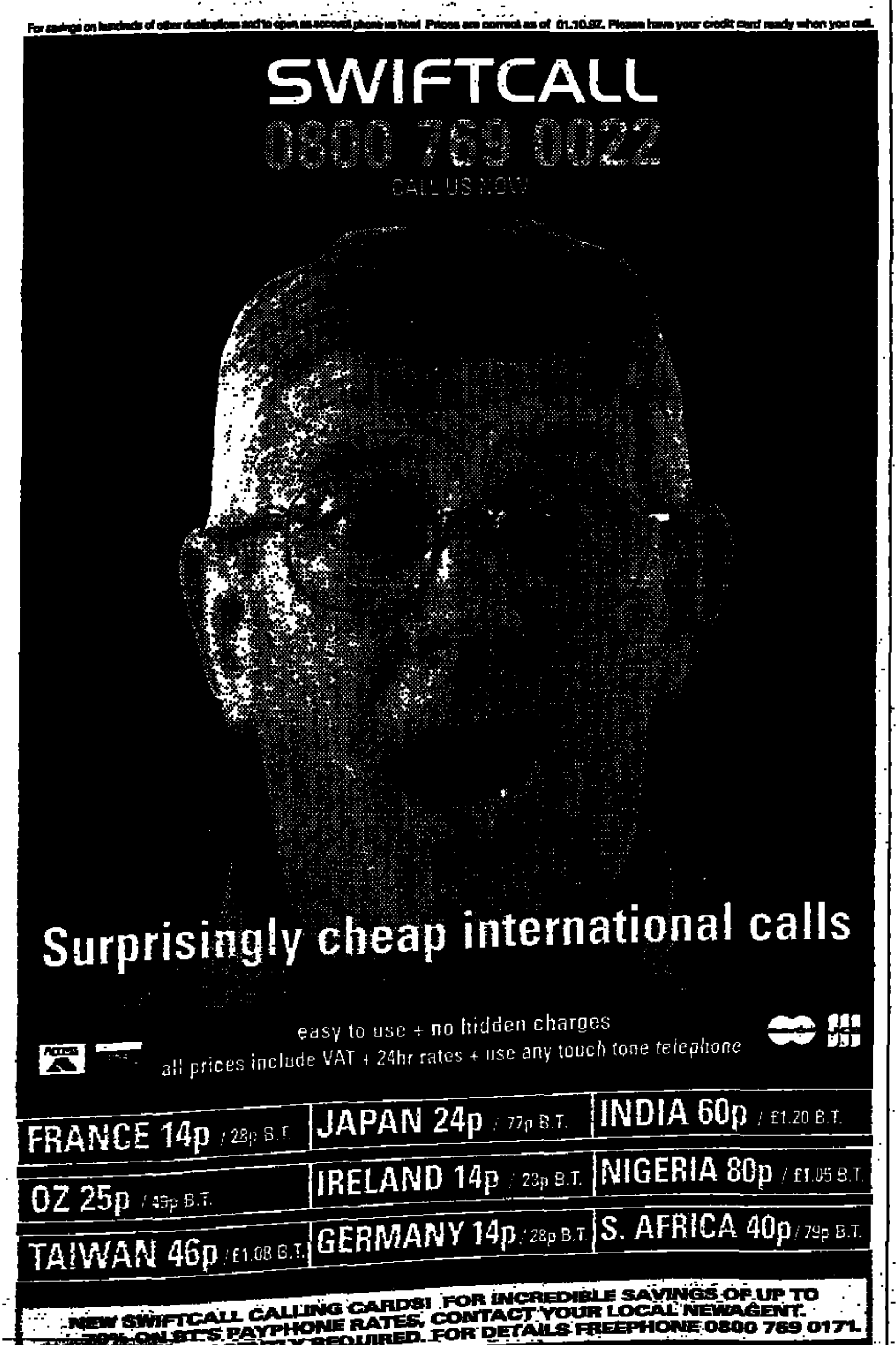
The Faust episode was the nadir of the relationship between Saatchi and Mawhinney. A showdown between the two proud and stubborn men was inevitable. Their differences had arisen over the harshness of the attacks on Labour and over making Europe an election issue. Mawhinney thought further negative advertising would lose votes. On Europe, Saatchi remained convinced until the very end that a strong attack on the European social model was the key to success.

Saatchi's demonic poster

Mawhinney's reticence on both issues stemmed in part from personal conviction, but it also strongly reflected Major's thinking. Major, for example, vetoed a second "devil eyes" advertisement, showing them peering out from a pair of smiling plastic lips, invoking Blair's ubiquitous grin. The caption was to have been, "What lies behind the smile?"

TOMORROW

Gay politics: the day John Major met Sir Ian McKellen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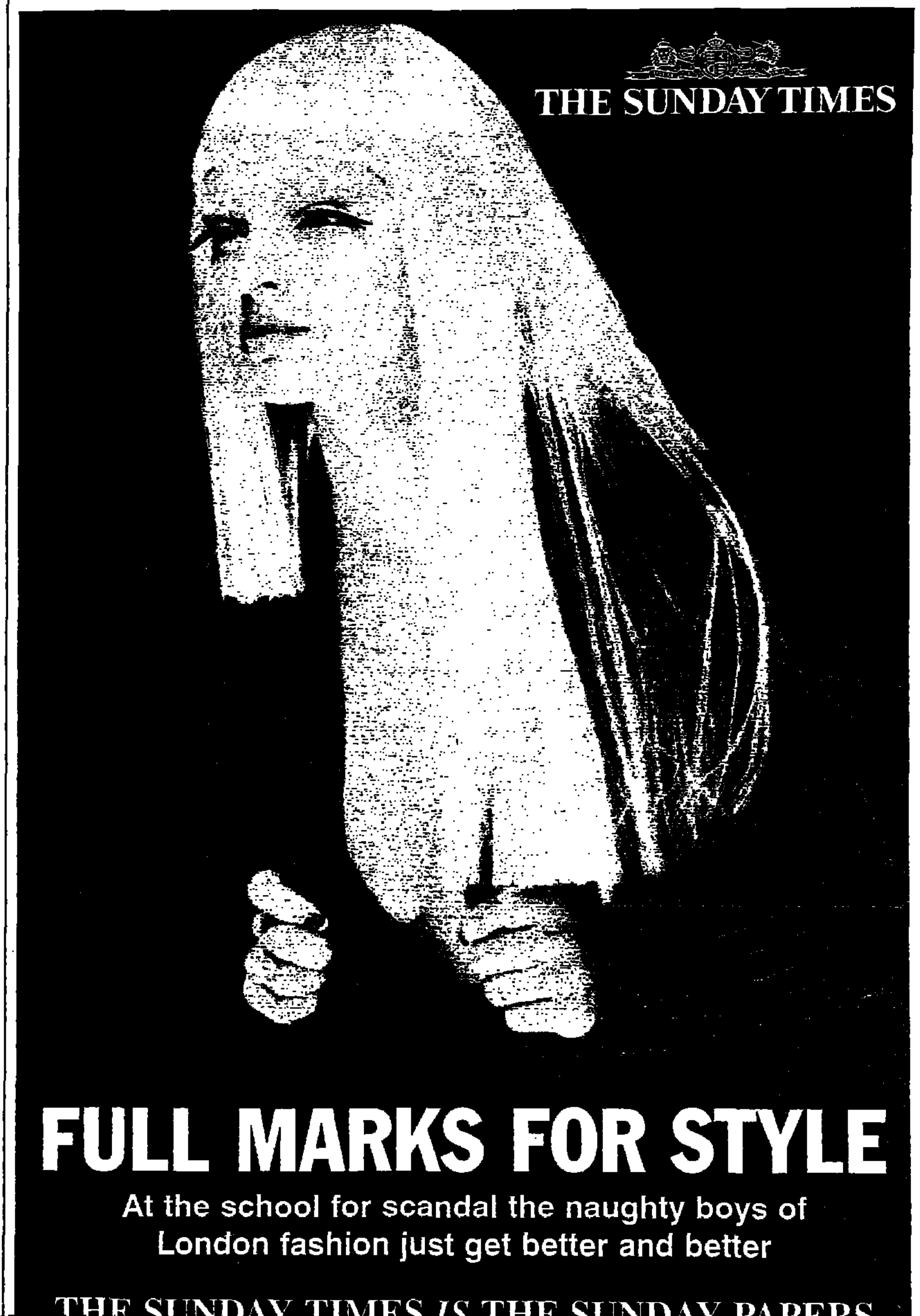
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Wanted: one boat-rocking radical

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

Perhaps the kindest thing that can be said of the Gowrie Years at the Arts Council — brought to a premature curtain on Wednesday by the noble lord's resignation as chairman — is that they were an improvement on the Palumbo Years. Even so, the Arts Council now desperately needs a chairman who is not a paid-up member of the metropolitan "culture club". It needs someone with the courage to ask why millions of British people perceive the arts as being boring, exclusive, pretentious, difficult, silly or irrelevant; or why the arts have been marginalised in state schools; or why so few black faces are seen in our theatres or concert halls — and a hundred other awkward questions that would shake the Arts Council to its smug, self-serving core if tackled seriously.

Of course such a boat-rocking radical will *never* get within a million miles of the job, especially since the appointment is in the gift of Control Freaks Inc — ie, our wonderful Labour Government. But whoever the new chairman is, one priority stands above all others: to build the audience for tomorrow. Whether it is called educational work, audience development or "outreach", it must be the principal aim of every recipient of public subsidy. The new chairman must ruthlessly insist on that.

Then he (or she) must negotiate some formula for spending Arts Council lottery money to promote the arts into schools. Nobody else will. Then the new chairman must somehow lift the pathetic quota of arts programmes on television, if necessary by subsidising many more of them. That's the only way to reach really big audiences.

And then . . . no, that's enough impossible dreams for now. One final point, though. If Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, doesn't want the new chairman to be another rich dilettante, he should make it a paid job. Every day millions of pounds pass through the Arts Council's books. To have an amateur heading an organisation entrusted with such vast public largesse is crazy.

The news that Harrow School has prohibited its boys from singing "tribal" rugby songs is a sad blow to British culture. As a pupil at a London boys' school in the early 1970s I found that the weekly recital of rugby songs, tribal or otherwise, in the back of the 2nd XV coach on the way home from our latest 40-nil drubbing constituted a substantial part of my musical training, and pretty well my entire sex education.

True, some of the advice so graphically enshrined in their rustic verses — about the congressional pleasures to be anticipated from a scrum half's daughter, for instance — proved less helpful in later life than I had hoped. Indeed, it led to one or two unfortunate misunderstandings.

Nevertheless, Harrow should relent. Of all the bestial crimes committed in boys' public schools through the centuries, rugby songs are the least corrupting. In fact I find it rather encouraging that, in this age of mindless electronic games, schoolchildren still enjoy nothing better than a lusty rendition of a traditional ditty.

Not often does this column shed a tear for employees of *The Daily Telegraph*. However, my heart went out to Kate Bassett, second-string theatre critic of that journal, when she reviewed the West End's latest British musical, *Maddie*. Why? Well, in one of the year's more bizarre "reader offers", *Telegraph* readers had been invited to finance this show, and some brave souls did indeed back it to the tune of £150,000.

"So, as you may imagine," Ms Bassett tells her readers, "I was praying that I would like *Maddie*." No kidding. And guess what? "Mercifully my prayers were answered." How fortunate. Ms Bassett goes on to praise the "classic Broadway-style numbers" in a story that "touches on complex issues about erotic fantasies".

On the strength of her eulogy, *Maddie*'s backers may now be cracking open the bubbly and waiting for the profits to roll in from a West End run destined to rival *Cats*. Out of kindness, then, I feel compelled to draw their attention to other critics' verdicts.

"Balderdash, babble and baloney leading to a dead end," is the headline above Nicholas de Jongh's review in the *Evening Standard*, which calls *Maddie* "emotionally vacuous" and "aimlessly ridiculous" before concluding (somewhat unnecessarily, you may think), "it's a grim night".

The *Daily Mail*'s Michael Coveney decides, a little oddly, to express his feelings in rhyme: "*Maddie* is a baddie, my heart it does not gladdie," he writes with girlish glee, before noting that both music and lyrics are "completely undistinguished".

Meanwhile, the *FT*'s critic is roused by *Maddie* to the startling observation that "the modern musical is the cesspit of theatre today". Even our own eminently reasonable Benedict Nightingale sadly finds that *Maddie's* "sophistication level is a bit too low".

So where does that leave the effusive Ms Bassett? Perhaps pondering the fact that the life of a second-string theatre critic is strewn with hidden pitfalls. In the unlikely event that *Times* readers go collectively bonkers and pour their life-savings into some dreadful West End musical, I shall lead the entire *Times* reviewing team on an extended trek into the Gobi Desert. You can write your own rave reviews.

Joker sounds serious

CONCERT

CBSO/Rattle
Birmingham

AMONG the dozens of percussion instruments required for Thomas Adès's *Asyla* are sandpaper blocks, a washboard, three large tins and a bag full of metal knives and forks. Of the three pianos, one has its lowest octave muted by a strip of cloth "lightly but firmly" applied to the strings, and another must be tuned a quarter-tone flat. Surely, a young composer commissioned to write a major work for Sir Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra — who will be performing it in four British concert halls alongside Mahler's Third Symphony during the next week or so — couldn't be having a joke at the orchestra's expense?

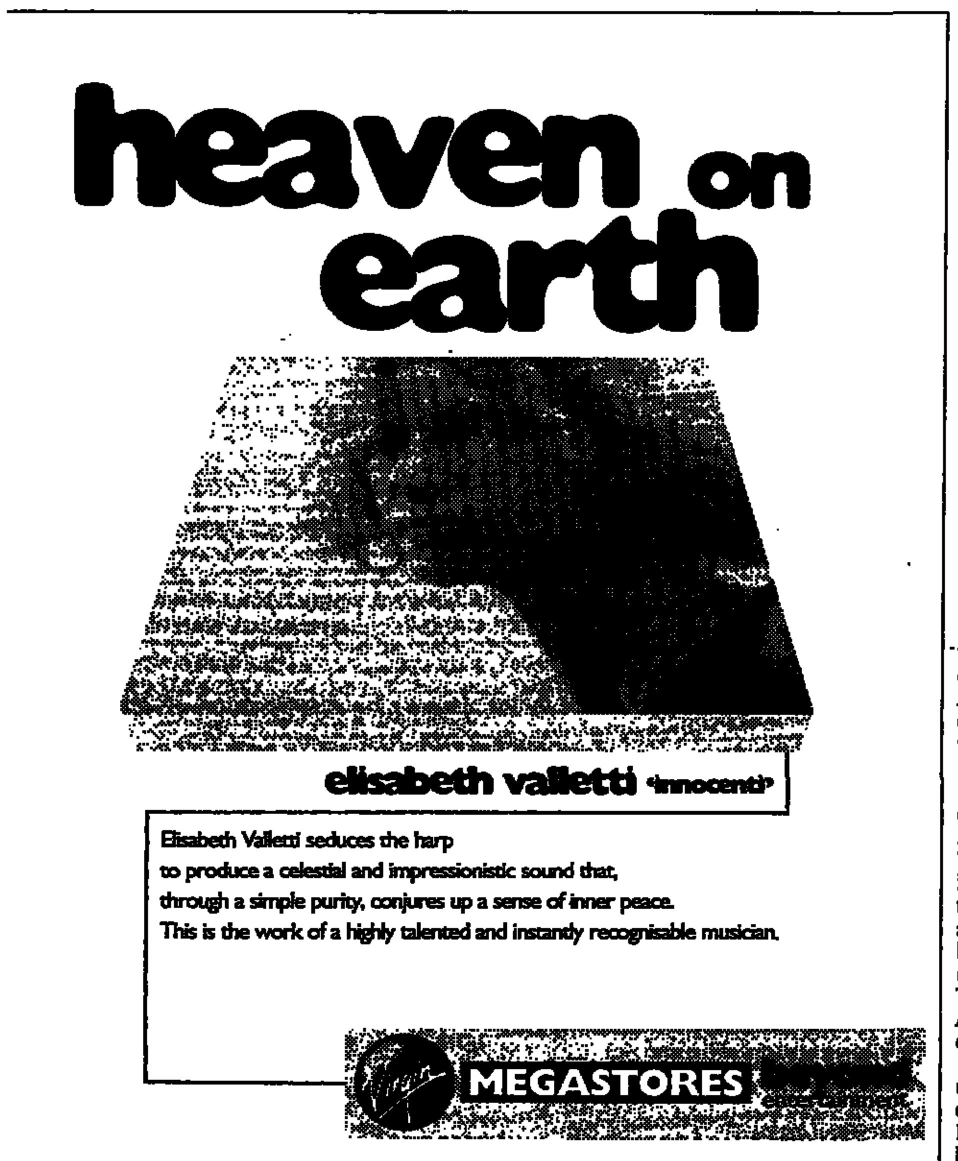
In fact, in a strictly serious sense, he is. By giving his pianists and his team of percussionists these extravagant and more than faintly ludicrous things to do, Adès is collapsing the stout-party aspect of the orchestra, making it his own as well as Mahler's.

The fascinating aspect of the score, however, is that far from attempting to create a new sound by blending household implements with the sophisticated instruments we know and love, it presents them in incongruous parallel. From the beginning of the first of the four movements, where an incoherent babble of flattened piano and (more or less) tuned cow bells leads into a superbly coherent melodic line on three horns, there is friction between them.

Occasionally the orchestra disappears; at other points it asserts itself, intentionally or not, in a brief parody of *The Rite of Spring*, or echoes something by Mussorgsky. But the most characteristic sounds are those like, say, a counterpoint of violins and wind floating over a low murmur of fine but actually indecipherable detail in the percussion and lower strings and brass. This is a work which encourages speculation, and which will reward it with more and more discoveries for several performances.

Only Rattle and the CBSO would programme a complex score like that with a work as long and as demanding as Mahler's Third Symphony. But it was worth taking the risk, if only because it inspired a slightly different way of playing (or hearing) Mahler's first movement, where the textural incongruities and contradictions seemed scarcely less new than Adès's.

GERALD LARNER



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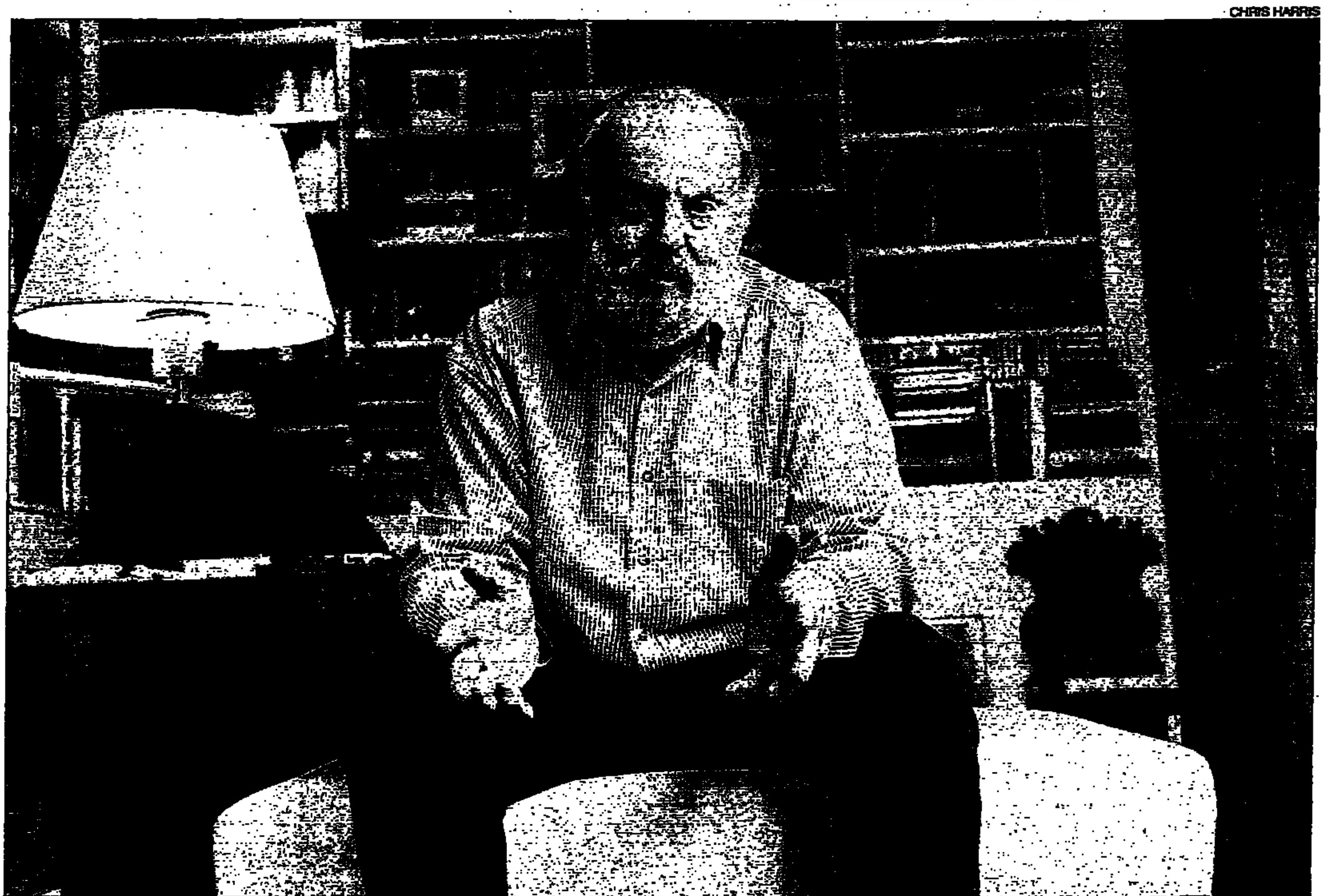
Hugh Whitemore's epic Powell adaptation is about to hit our screens. **W. Stephen Gilbert** met him



CHRIS HARRIS

"I knew it was going to work," says Hugh Whitemore, "but I had to cut whole characters, and an entire book disappeared almost completely"

Dancing with a history man

In 1958 Hugh Whitemore was working in the grand piano department at Harrods. "I'd just failed to be an actor and I was trying to write. I was quite hard up." The store ran a library then, and its policy was that no popular book should be oversubscribed. As demand waned, spare copies were sold off cheap. "And I bought *At Lady Molly's* for half-a-crown or so. I read it, and thought it was wonderful."

The novel was the fourth in the sequence by Anthony Powell that came to be known as *A Dance to the Music of Time*. Whitemore read the earlier instalments, and then bought the succeeding eight volumes as they appeared. Powell had begun with *A Question of Upbringing*, published in 1951. The last book, *Hearing Secret Harmonies*, appeared two dozen years later.

"I became a writer," continues Whitemore, "and at various intervals I had an idea that I would like to dramatise the books. But there were always other options, or someone else was doing it. Dennis [Potter] tried. So it slid away from me.

"And then about five years ago I went to see Alvin [Rakoff, the Canadian director] to have a drink and cheer myself up. He said: 'Isn't there something you've always wanted to do?' and I said: 'Well, yes there is.' So I gave him the books. He said: 'You can't dramatise these. It's crazy.' Nevertheless he decided to have a go at getting them off the ground."

Rakoff took the producer role and he and Whitemore pitched the project to the BBC. "My idea was to get away from the old serialisation style, the classic literary adaptation, and try to make the 12 books into four movies." But a year went by with no serious response from the BBC and Whitemore mentioned the project in passing to Channel 4 serials commissioner Peter Ansorge, who responded warmly at once. Ansorge commissioned a first script, "and then there was a brief flurry from the BBC. I don't understand what's going on at the BBC any more. Is there a drama department? Are they film-makers?"

Happily, Channel 4 was not only keen to have the films but elected wholly to finance them. "Of course this was under Michael Grade's regime," says Whitemore, "and his enthusiasm was terrific. But having had all these great plans, when it came to actually writing it I found it extremely difficult. It was like learning a foreign language.

"Once I'd got it down as a first draft, I knew it was going to work. It would take a lot of revision. It was about 500 pages, which is an awful lot of words. I had to cut whole characters. An entire book, *Casanova's Chinese Restaurant*, disappeared almost completely."

Many dramatisations are undertaken by writers indifferent to or cavalier with the source novel. In this case, Whitemore is a devotee. Might that not be a trap? "The trap is if you feel obliged to be utterly faithful," he says. "When I was younger, I might have thought so. But now I feel one must be bolder. Ideally it should be like theme and variations. You're creating something quite different but at the same time it's an *hommage*.

"Because it was a long, long job, in a weird, arrogant way I almost felt I'd written the books. I couldn't disentangle the Powell from what was in my head. It's almost as if the books were the idea for a film I was writing. And I was able to put some of my own feelings into it. The third film deals with the war. I was a child in the war and I remember seeing my father clambering into a crowded train which is the image with which I start the film."

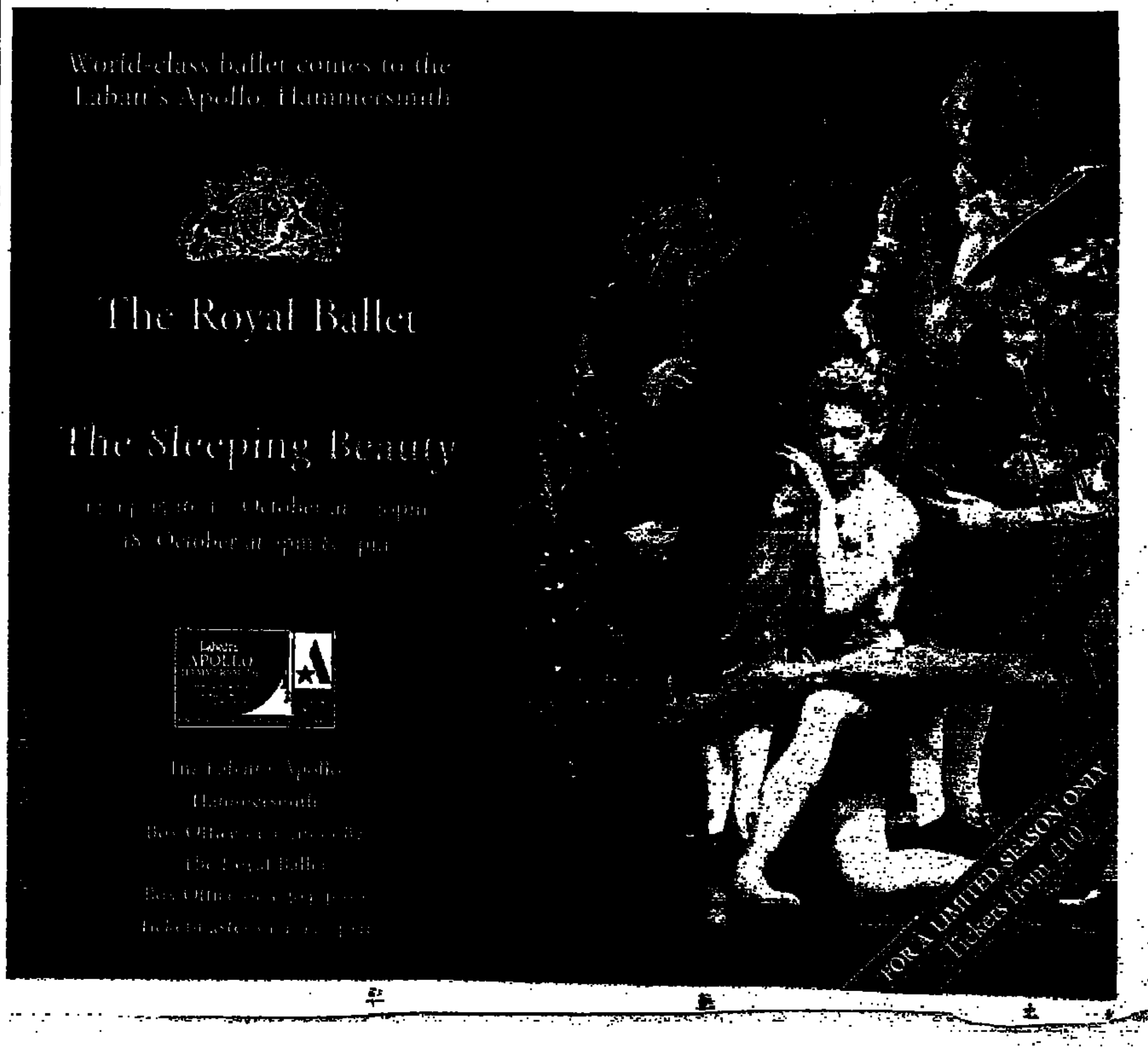
Whitemore has been a prolific writer for 35 years. He is working on a movie for Oliver Stone that addresses the Cuban missile crisis, and his new stage play, *A Letter of Resignation*, deals with Harold Macmillan at the time of the Profumo scandal — both actual events of some 35 years ago.

"The sense of history informs everything I really enjoy doing," he says. "It has to do with making sense of the passage of time — a lifetime or an age or a century. Powell achieved something I always wanted to achieve. He's linked emotion and experience in an historical context."

Whitemore takes a second credit on the four films, as executive producer. "It was an insurance policy," he says. "I did it in case it all went wrong. I thought 'I'm never going to do anything as big or as wonderful as this again, so I want to make sure everything is as I want it to be.' I never dreamt it could be as smooth as it was."

His hope is that Powell, taking a lively interest at 92, gets his due. "Without being sentimental, I want the public to realise that Powell is the best novelist in England this century. So it would be nice if people said: 'Here's a great writer who's been well served by these films.' I'd settle for that."

● *A Dance to the Music of Time begins on Channel 4 next Thursday.* A Letter of Resignation *opens at the Comedy (0171-369 1731) on Oct 16*



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Blue remembered love

Textual scholarship, a matter with which Tom Stoppard's latest piece is much concerned, is a formidably challenging and often highly speculative affair. It consists of discerning the precise intentions of a writer whose work may have been filtered through scribe after scribe after scribe. In other words, it is rather like confronting a major new Stoppard play. At the National, the task is to find the coherence in the many subjects of *The Invention of Love* — from learning to aesthetics to homosexuality — that have passed through that complex processing and reprocessing plant, Tom Stoppard's mind.

The Invention of Love
Cottesloe

For those in the first-night audience who found the experience difficult or confusing — and there were some near me who looked rather the way I myself did when a particularly ferocious form-master asked me to con Juvenal at school — there is an explanation. This is a memory-play, free-associated from the very brink of Hades. A.E. Housman, author of *A Shropshire Lad* and eminent Latinist, is trying and not always managing to make sense of a life and an era filled with contradictions.

When we meet him, Housman is a buttoned-up, mildly smiling John Wood, boring the gnarled old cabbie Charon ("I had that Dionysus in the back of my boat") with his thoughts about textual analysis. Then it is 50 years earlier, and he is a gangling, exhilarated Paul Rhys, rowing down the Cherwell with Mo Jackson, the sporty, philistine fellow undergraduate for whom he secretly nurtured a lifelong love. And from then on reminiscence and fantasy jostle each other, as old Housman debates earnestly on topics classical with young Housman, and Ruskin, Pater, Jowett, Wilde and many another Victorian stroll round the arc of grey books that is Anthony Ward's set.

It is a packed, pedagogic, diffuse, witty, melancholy and, as skilfully directed by Richard Eyre, surprisingly engrossing play. Wood and Rhys have to draw on all their energy and mental passion to sustain some of the academic debate, and it takes time to see where this is leading. Why is Housman so much more interested in tidying up texts than in relishing their content? But gradually one begins to suspect that his burning enthusiasm for donnish analysis is at least partly an evasion and emotional cover-up.

By the end, when Michael Fitzgerald's splendidly unrepentant Wilde has arrived at the Styx, the play's main thrust is clear enough. In the ancient world love between males was accepted, even admired. Catullus and Horace, Achilles and Patroclus are among those invoked to reinforce the point. So, again and again, is the battle of Chaerona, where Philip of Macedon's victims included 150 pairs of Theban lovers. But the very Victorians who regarded classical culture as a prime civilising force regarded all that as "beastliness" to be ignored or criminalised.

Hence Wilde, who goes to Hades with a defiant "better a falling rocket than never a burst of light", and hence poor, repressed Housman, posthumously mourning Jackson. When the always riveting Wood cries: "I would have died for you but I never had the luck," one senses an irony within a title meant to refer to Propertius, Catullus and the other Roman lyrical poets. For some, it might have been better if love had never been invented.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

● *This review appeared in late editions of The Times yesterday*

Michael Fitzgerald (left) as Oscar Wilde, with John Wood and Paul Rhys playing the old and young Housman

Mozart sunny side up

OPERA

For an economy production with cannibalised sets and no chorus on stage, Nicolette Molnár's 1994 staging of Mozart's comedy has done extremely well: this is its third well-deserved revival in as many years. Jacqueline Gunn's witty 1950s costumes underline the ordinariness of the characters: they are neither aristos nor operatic posturers, but people we all know, which is how Molnár treats them. Her lightly feminist Happy End — the sisters overhear the plot and exit with a cheery wave at curtain-fall, leaving their fiancés behind with fake brides — wears well, and the thoughtful way she devises the new pairings requires little in the way of suspension of disbelief. She also uses the huge stage with unobtrusive skill.

The Viennese conductor Alexander Sander is similarly practical. Ideally speaking, the house is about three times too big for *Così*, but he judiciously tailors his interpretation to it with gentle, unhurried tempos and warm sonorities — Viennese indeed. Some of the playing on Wednesday's first night was perhaps a little too loud, but later performances will be more relaxed.

The production is also a fine showcase for new (and old) company artists. Margaret Richardson, singing her first Fiordiligi, is a valuable addition to the roster; as of now her top is stronger than her lower register, and it rings out bravely, securely, in an enormously likeable interpretation. Susan Parry, too, was tackling her first Dorabella, no featherbrain but a natural, instinctive girl, far more of a voice of reason than the so-called philosopher Don Alfonso, and thus the linchpin of Molnár's reading. As for the sisters' acid-tongued maid, Janis Kelly writes her own review — with a little help from Anne Ridler's translation — with the last words of her second aria: "Bravo Despina, brilliantly played."

Alan Opie's Don Alfonso was yet another role debut. There is always something going on behind this marvellous artist's eyes, and even in the merry opening numbers you knew this was an introverted, profoundly disillusioned man, and quite unfit to be running a School for Lovers. His male pupils were Ashley Holland as a warm-toned, verbally incisive but dramatically not quite focused Guglielmo, and Charles Workman (Ferrando), whose only fault is that he makes the role sound too easy.

RODNEY MILNES

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargle

LONDON

KIT AND THE WIDOW: The spruce couple's latest national tour starts here. Criticism of the way we live now, mostly done with song.
New End, 27 New End, Hampstead, NW3 (0171-794 0022) Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. Then Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat Sun, 3.30pm. Until October 11 Ⓢ

MACKEREL SKY: First play by Dublin-based Hilary Fannin tells of two days in the life of a faded chanteuse (Ruth Hegarty) and her mother-in-law (Gillian Raine), fending off eviction. Mike Bradwell directs.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, London W12 (0181-743 3388) Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm.

SCHUMANN REVEALED: In a weekend devoted to Schumann's orchestral and choral music the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique under John Eliot Gardiner performs three programmes which include the Cello Concerto (Fri), with soloist Steven Isserlis; Symphony No 3 (Sat), culminating in a performance of Scenes from Goethe's Faust (Sun).
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Sun, 7.30pm

SOUTH BANK SELECTION: A glittering array of musicians line up to entertain here this weekend. The Festival Hall is host to no less than three concerts, starting tonight with the opening of the Russian State Symphony Orchestra's UK tour. Tomorrow pianist Chick Corea and vibraphonist Gary Burton arrive with an evening of contemporary jazz, while on Sunday, Raising Sparks, the series celebrating the music of James MacMillan, continues with a concert by the Philharmonia Orchestra under Vassily Sinaisky.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) Tonight-Sun 7.30pm Ⓢ

John Eliot Gardiner conducts at the Barbican

ELSEWHERE

CARDIFF: Patrice Caurier and Moshe Leiser's successful production for Welsh National Opera of Bizet's **Carmen** is making a comeback for the autumn season. Patricia Bardon heads the cast. Carlo Rizzi conducts.
New Theatre, Park Place, Cardiff (01222 878889) Tomorrow, 7.15pm Ⓢ

LEEDS: David Pountney makes a long-awaited return to Opera North to direct a new production of Bohuslav Martinů's rarely performed work **Julietta**, with sets by Stefanos Lazaridis. Steuart Bedford conducts.
Grand Theatre, 46 New Briggate (0113-245 9351/440971) Tonight, 7.15pm Ⓢ

MANCHESTER: Harmonious family relations are in evidence here tonight as the renowned conductor Gennadi Rozhdestvensky takes the podium to conduct the BBC Philharmonic with his son Alexandre as violin soloist. The programme features Haydn, Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich.
Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley Street (0161-907 9000) Tomorrow 7.30pm Ⓢ

WATFORD: David Burt stars as the great Regency actor, pop idol of his day, in **The Meteoric Rise and Dramatic Demise of Edmund Kean**. The Sylvia Freedman/Michael Jeffray musical previously seen and praised at the King's Head, Islington.
Palace, Clarendon Road, (01923 225671) Previews from tonight, 8pm. Opens Oct 7, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Thur, 7.45pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm, some mats Wed, and Sats. Until Oct 25 Ⓢ

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

- ■ *House full, returns only*
- ▨ Some seats available
- ☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **THE BIBLE: THE COMPLETE WORD OF GOD (ABRIDGED):** Another compression job by the Reduced Shakespeare Company, said to put the fun back into fundamentalism.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm

☐ **BLUE HEART:** Caryl Churchill plays tricks with reality in this double bill for Out Of Joint — in Heart's Desire, where a family is waiting for a woman to return from Australia, and in Blue Kettle as a con man tries to persuade elderly women he is their long lost son. Imaginative, often funny, and spreading a sense of unease.
Royal Court, (Duke of York's Theatre), St Martin's Lane, W1 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3.30pm Ⓢ

☐ **THE COMEDY OF ERRORS:** Tim Supple's successful touring production for the Royal Shakespeare Company, a darker comedy than usual, in London for five weeks.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Until October 11.

■ **GUYS AND DOLLS:** The Olivier returns to its original shape for the revival of Richard Eyre's revival. Exhilarating stuff.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight and tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat tomorrow, 2pm.

▨ **HEARTBREAK HOUSE:** Strong cast for David Hare's revival includes Emma Fielding, Patricia Hodge, Carmel McSharry, Penelope Wilton, Richard Griffiths, Peter McEnery.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat, 3pm. Until October 11.

■ **THE HERBAL BED:** Peter Whelan's fascinating play. Kate Duchêne plays Shakespeare's daughter and Michael Ford plays her physician husband.
Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Until October 4

☐ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND:** Return of Peter Hall's enjoyable production, brimful of deceptions. Starring Martin Shaw and Simon Ward, and Kate O'Mara as the svelte troublemaker.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Until October 11

☐ **THE MYSTERIOUS MR LOVE:** New play by Karoline Leach set in 1915 in a hotel at Weston-super-Mare directed by Bob Tomson. Paul Nicholas plays a confidence trickster and Susan Penhaligon a lovelorn spinster.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

☐ **POPCORN:** Ben Elton's blistering comedy about movie violence. A Tarantinoesque director gets his comeuppance when a couple of serial killers (great playing by Patrick O'Kane and Dena Davis) blame him for their misdeeds. Laurence Boswell directs.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 4pm

☐ **PYGMALION:** Amusing, unshowy revival with Roy Marsden, Michael Elphick and newcomer Carli Norris.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4.30pm

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

BOOTY CALL (18): Boisterous and bawdy African-American comedy, with Jamie Foxx and Tommy Davidson. Director, Jeff Pollock.
UCI Whiteleys Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

HEAD ABOVE WATER (15): Ex-lover's corpse ruins a couple's vacation. Unfunny comedy with Harvey Keitel and Cameron Diaz. Director, Jim Wilson.
Virgin Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

JACKIE CHAN'S FIRST STRIKE (12): Police officer pursues stolen nuclear warhead. Stunts and comedy galore from the Hong Kong superstar. Director, Stanley Tong.
Virgin Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

VOLCANO (12): Lava and clichés swamp Los Angeles. A disaster movie that should be more fun that it is. With Tommy Lee Jones and Anne Heche. Director, Mick Jackson.
Odeons: Camden Town (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221)

CURRENT

◆ **CAREER GIRLS** (15): Student friends meet up as adults. Awkward but touching Mike Leigh drama, with Katrin Cartlidge and Lynda Steadman.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham PH** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Gate** Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **CONTACT** (PG): Jodie Foster itches to make contact with outer space. Enjoyable, mostly intelligent sci-fi, directed by Robert Zemeckis.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING** (12): Julia Roberts does her best to trip up Dermot Mulroney at the altar. Intelligent romantic comedy, directed by P. J. Hogan.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

THE SWEET HEREAFTER (15): Lawyer stirs up grieving community. Powerful version of Russell Banks's novel from the iconoclastic Atom Egoyan. With Ian Holm.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** Ⓢ (0171-435 3366) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

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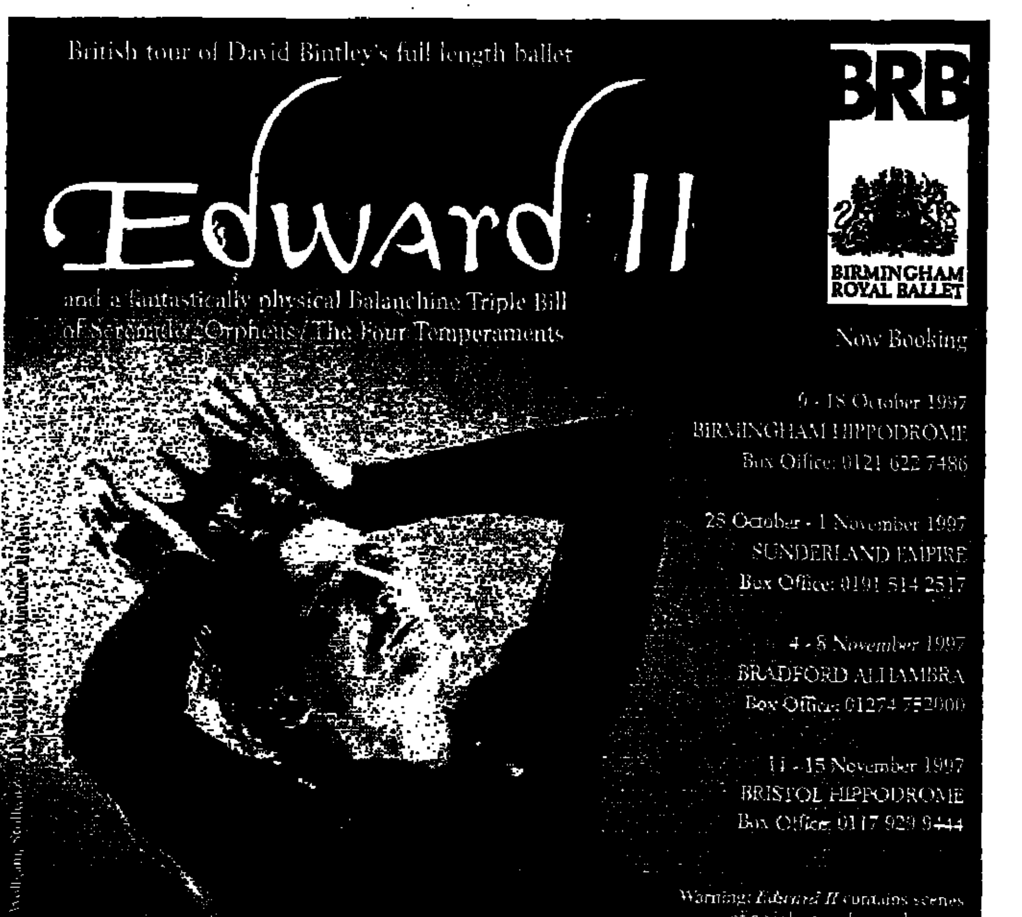

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هكذا من الأصل

Is he really going out with hymns?

Joe Jackson tells **Nigel Williamson** why he junked pop in favour of a classical album about Heaven and Hell

There seems to come a moment in the careers of ageing pop musicians when they feel compelled to prove they are "serious artists" by venturing into the grown-up world of classical music. At the moment the tendency is turning into a flood. This month, Paul McCartney follows his *Liverpool Oratorio* with another large-scale orchestral work, *Standing Stone*. Aretha Franklin has enrolled at the Juilliard School to study theory and composition. Even as accomplished a songsmith as Billy Joel has apparently abandoned words in favour of orchestral pieces.

Joe Jackson is different. When he hit the charts in the early 1980s with such catchy pop ditties as *Is She Really Going Out With Him?* and *It's Different for Girls*, he was only fooling. He didn't boast about the fact too much in those post-punk days, but before he became a pop star he had graduated in composition from the Royal Academy of Music.

Before long he found the format of the three-minute song somewhat limiting and, by the early 1990s, Jackson, now living in New York, had announced his "retirement" from the pop world. Last year he signed to Sony Classical, for which he has just made his most ambitious work to date, a musical representation of the seven deadly sins called *Heaven and Hell*.

"It's incredibly refreshing being with a classical label," he says. "Mainstream pop labels are very supportive providing you sell ten million albums. I got sick of that negative whining about where the next hit single was coming from. I found it insulting. Artists who want to do something musically challenging are going more and more with classical labels."

Peter Gelb, president of Sony Classical, agrees. "The staple of the classical industry — the reinterpretations of the standard repertoire — has ceased to be artistically or commercially effective. So we are trying to broaden the scope and definition of classical music. Joe naturally crosses the genres without a conscious effort to do so; he's the ideal modern composer."

> ‘I don't think you can do anything new in pop or rock’

Although Jackson denies that he is deliberately seeking to break down barriers, *Heaven and Hell* includes contributions from classical stars such as the soprano Dawn Upshaw and the violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, as well as two singers who made their name in the pop field: Suzanne Vega and Jane Siberry.

"I feel very comfortable with that," Jackson says. "It's an ambitious idea tackling the seven deadly sins. I'm not doing it from the point of view of a philosopher or theologian. I started as a composer looking for a theme for a musical piece. There's nothing wrong with concept albums, except that there have been so many horrible ones. Giving a theme to an album is actually quite a good idea, because it creates a structure."

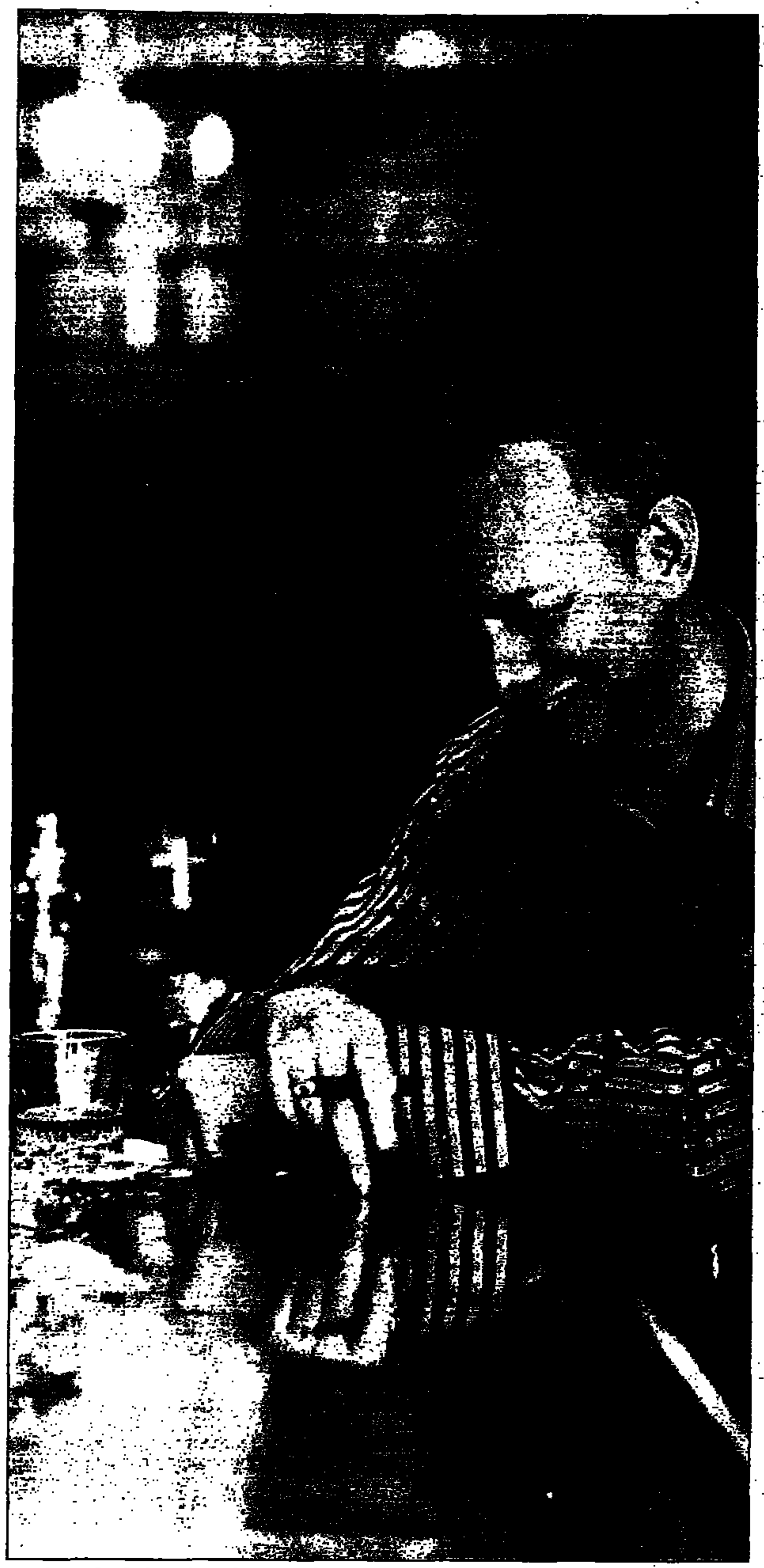
The title of the work comes from Jackson's belief that the sins are "routes that can take you either to Heaven or to Hell. The modern take on sin is that it doesn't exist any more. I see these sins as basic human impulses, there's dark and light to them all. You can't banish the Devil because he's inside you. You've got to make friends with him. It's all about integrating these different sides."

His depiction of lust, for example, includes Vega singing the part of a whore and Upshaw that of an angel. Most of the other tracks have a similar duality, and only anger is dealt with in out-and-out rock format. "There's a limited emotional range to rock, but anger is the one thing it is good at," Jackson says.

He is now working on a symphony and is on the second draft of a book about music. But recently pop has made a limited return into his life. "If you had asked me a couple of years ago I'd have said I was only listening to Shostakovich and Sibelius and that pop was all crap. But I think there's a bit of a renaissance now, with Radiohead, Pulp and Oasis, although it is very referential to the past. I don't think you can do anything new in pop or rock music at the moment. The paradox is that the myth says pop always has to be new and rebellious. Instead it's almost become a classical form, with a cosy, reassuring continuity."

And cosy is something Jackson will never be.

● Heaven and Hell *is released on Monday by Sony Classical*



A chart single is only a chart single, says Joe Jackson, but a good cigar is a smoke

POP CONCERTS

We'll just say fare thee well

Bob Dylan
Bournemouth

We nearly lost him earlier this summer when he was laid low with a potentially fatal heart disease, but then Bob Dylan's detractors have been trying to bury him ever since he was roundly booed for going electric at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965. Dylan has made a career out of confounding his critics, and has just surprised us again by bouncing back with *Time Out of Mind*, his best-received album in at least a decade.

He wrong-footed them again on Wednesday night, by playing the first date of his British tour at the International Centre in Bournemouth, a town more noted for its retirement homes than rock'n'roll. As Dylan first toured Britain when Harold Macmillan was Prime Minister, perhaps the two are not that far apart, but he showed here that drawing the pension is the last thing on his mind.

Dylan moved stiffly at first, his sharp, 1960s-style tapered suit giving him a skinny, angular appearance so that he looked either 25 or 65, depending on the light.

He began energetically with five tough rockers from three different decades of his career before switching to an acoustic guitar for *Cocaine* (not one he sang for the Pope last weekend), *Tangled Up in Blue* and a slowed-down *Mr Tambourine Man*, delicately embroidered with a mandolin.

His voice was cracked and shot to pieces, but he was also singing better than in a long time. He has stopped strangling his syllables, his delivery was passionate and the phrasing assured. Dylan has always been an erratic live performer, often baffling his backing musicians as much as his critics, but this was as tight a unit as any he has appeared with since the days of the Band. By the time they hit *Highway 61 Revisited*, the rhythm section was driving like a train, Dylan was moving more freely and the years were being rolled back.

Bob Dylan: back from the brink and sounding good

After ten songs he was gone, but he was called back for three encores. Dylan has never been content to be a human juke box churning out the hits, preferring to reinvent his songs as he goes along. A guitar-led *Like a Rolling Stone* owed much to the version recorded by the late Randy California and Spirit, while *Don't Think Twice, it's All Right* was recast as a swaying mandolin stomp.

The one song from the new album, *Love Sick*, was recognised instantly by most even though it had been in the shops only three days, which speaks volumes about the dedication of his fan base.

Other than to introduce the band, the voice of a generation had no words of wisdom for his audience, but then he would maintain that he had said it all in the songs. A triumph? Of sorts. That he was there at all was enough.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Rebel with a new course

Robbie Williams
[illegible]

WHEN Take That finally gave up the ghost, predictions about the boys' future careers seemed simple. There was Gary Barlow the songwriter, and Mark Owen the pretty face: you would bet on them. But you would want long odds on the one who stormed out of the group early, who hung out with Oasis, who went on an almighty, year-long bender, each drunken day a tabloid headline.

No, you wouldn't fancy a flutter on Robbie Williams. Except that he has cleaned up his act, released an album of bright-eyed pop and embarked on a national tour.

In his Take That days, Williams was always the joker, the one with the sly grin and the mischievous smirk. He has not changed much; it is just that, in his solo career, he can play the pop rebel to the full which, on this occasion, includes a punk deconstruction of Take That's *Back for Good* as an encore.

His music and his performance mark him as a showman in the tradition of David Bowie, Alice Cooper and Meat Loaf, people who invigorate rock styles with pop extravagance. He even covers Bowie's *Kooks*, from the album *Hunky Dory*. But most telling is the way he plays up to his audience, the way he soaks up the cries of "Robbie, Robbie", the way he wiggles his bum and then stands defiantly still. He relishes the fame, but he also mocks his press coverage, and angrily asserts that he's waited two years to get back onstage. It is this sense of bitterness and frustration that gives his manic performance its edge.

Williams is at his best with the upbeat pop, with the glorious *Life Thru a Lens* or *Clean*. His white soul voice blends neatly with the efficient, pristine accompaniment of his five-piece backing band. The ballads do not ring so true, partly because you are always wondering if he's joking.

Maybe Williams cannot decide either, just as he's not sure whether he is a teen idol or a rock rebel. He may, in fact, just be a millionaire having fun, but for as long as the bitterness is there and the boredom does not set in, this is a show worth catching.

JOHN STREET

Virtuoso horn of plenty

LIVE JAZZ

THE Vancouver-born trumpeter **Ingrid Jensen** has had a near-perfect career thus far. She learnt her trade at Boston's Berklee College of Music before moving to New York and touring with the Vienna Art Orchestra, one of the music's most eclectic contemporary ensembles. By 25, she had become the youngest teacher at Austria's Bruckner Conservatory. Now a New York resident again, she has as much work as she can handle.

Her gig at Pizza Express, Dean Street, in front of a local rhythm section — pianist John Donaldson, bassist Andy Cleyndert and drummer Steve Brown — as part of the annual Soho Jazz Festival, found her doing what she does best: exploring the modern mainstream courtesy of a well-judged mixture of standards and originals.

Beginning with an intriguingly tricky arrangement of *The Days of Wine and Roses* and *If I Were a Bell*, she demonstrated why she numbers two of today's most respected trumpeters, Clark Terry and Art Farmer, among her admirers. Vigorous and eloquent, hers is a sure-footed, attractively crackling sound when up-tempo, shading into crooning sonority on ballads.

Her younger sister, Christine, composed the first set's original, the title-track of Jensen's debut album, *Vernal Fields*. A cool, mid-tempo waltz, it showcased a mellow, flowing flugelhorn sound clearly indebted to Art Farmer. The same instrument was employed both for the subsequent ballad feature and for the opening choruses of *Summer Night*, an intelligent Renee Rosnes arrangement of the Harry Warren/Al Dubin classic, but Jensen sensibly closed with her more manageable horn, the trumpet.

Her second set again saw her alternating between flugelhorn (on which she occasionally indulged in Kenny Wheeler-like high-note flurries) and trumpet on material by another of her great heroes, the late Woody Shaw. Possessed as she is of a pleasantly relaxed stage demeanour in addition to her musical talents, Jensen looks to be well set for a lengthy and satisfying jazz career.

CHRIS PARKER

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Six strings that saved the world

So you missed out on the Pixies when they were alive? Never mind – now you can catch them in death

CAITLIN MORAN

How the world changes in five years. There was this pub in Wolverhampton called the Raglan. It was a breezeblock situated in the kind of deserted *car park where villains* meet up to swap tips. You could only reach it by jumping over the barriers of a dual carriageway and dodging the No 543 bus to Dudley. As you would already be drunk on cider and blackcurrant, motorists would frequently witness a Goth Charlie Chaplin practising pratfalls while trying to keep that last, smuggled pint *upright.*

In 1992, though, the Raglan was the only place in Wolverhampton where you could hear Indie Music. No, scratch that — in 1992, the Raglan was the only place you could hear guitars.

Do you want to see something really scary? Then consider this Top Ten from 1992: it contains *Baker Street* by Undercover, *Achy Breaky Heart* by Billy Ray Cyrus and *Rock Your Baby* by KWS, for which all words but "Ugh" fail me. Dotted in between, like tooth-marked slugs in an already horrid salad, are singles by Annie Lennox, Brian May and Luther Vandross.

And all of these atrocities were woven from the Only Permitted Instruments, circa 1985 to 1994: synthesizers. And not the crunching, crushing, diesel-fumed synths of the Prodigy, the Chemical Brothers and DJ Shadow, but the parping, quacking, sexless *synths that sound like wetlook* perms and ironed jeans.

So we ran to the Raglan every Saturday night, and loaded up on guitar filth manna. Guitars that jangled, guitars that exploded in screams of white noise, guitars that pierced the spine, guitars that filled your nose and mouth with a taste not unlike that of blood; guitars that left you pleasantly deaf. And of all these guitars, the Pixies' filthed you up the quickest. Black Francis, screaming like a cat in a deep-fat fryer; the unholy grinning shark with lipstick that was Kim Deal, and two other blokes. They *were* the noise.

The Pixies sounded like the dirtiest, wildest, most transcendentally drunk party-thing in the world. They were demons trying to be godlike, Dick Dale surfing a buffalo in Mexico's crack-filled oceans, the Beach Boys playing in Hell.

Kurt Cobain half-inched everything he knew from the Pixies and admitted it: "I was trying to write the ultimate pop song," he explained of *Smells Like Teen Spirit*. "I was basically trying to rip off the Pixies." The Pixies, you see, invented rock as we know it now, as they blissfully stumbled across a New Dynamic: start off really loud, go very, very quiet and then EXPLODE in a wall of sound so vast that the beer jumps out of your bottle. Radiohead, Manic Street Preachers, Oasis, the Chemical Brothers and the Prodigy have all risen to greatness on the back of this trick. But, alas, the Pixies were ahead of their time, heroic guitar colossi in an age of synth midgets, and you get nothing for being ahead of your time, bar the undying gratitude of kids who couldn't dance until, say, *U-Mass* made them. They broke up in 1991, and the world was eerily silent until Nirvana picked up the baton with the unfunky Pixies of *Nevermind*.

But now there's *Death to the Pixies*, a rampantly rocking Best Of that makes Oasis look like Nick Drake. It goes beyond being the best album of 1997. Putting a date on it cheapens the titan; it would be like calmly writing *the date of the apocalypse in* your diary. The world should be almost *panicked* by its release.

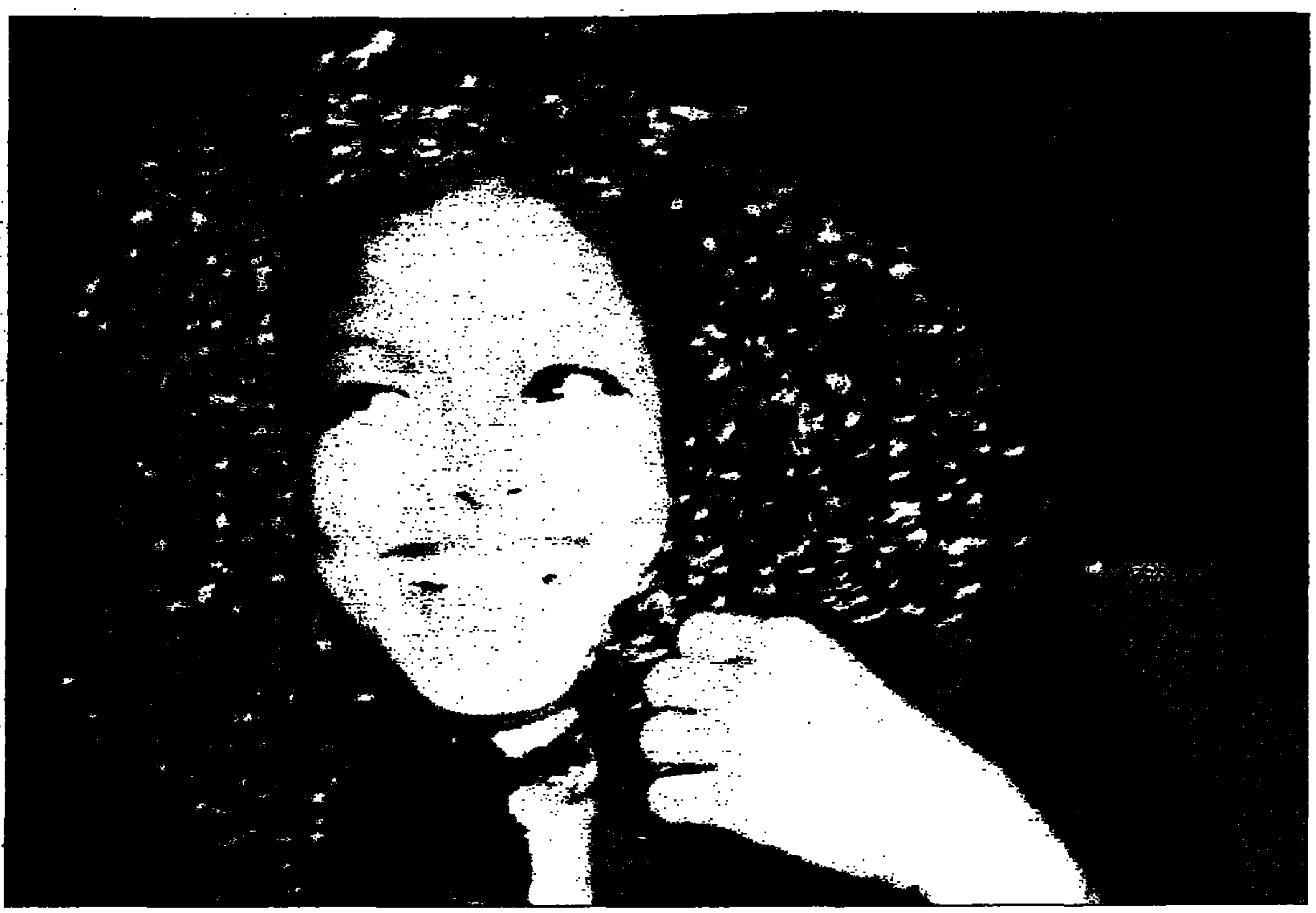
Those not in the know should try to imagine the thrill of screaming lyrics like "Slicing up eyeballs, ugh, ugh, ugh", or reciting the mantra: "If man is five/Then the devil is six/And if the devil is six/Then Gawd is seven!", and what it would be like to be strapped to the nosecone of the space shuttle on take-off. While smoking a fag.

The Pixies were guitar's ultimate glory, Mars's steaming mud monkeys come to save us all. And *Death to the Pixies* is their resurrection. All hail!

● Death to the Pixies is *released by 4AD on Monday*

NEW ALBUMS: Janet Jackson shows her more sincere side to **David Sinclair** on *The Velvet Rope*

Ballad on the dancefloor



The title of Janet Jackson's new album is a metaphor for the emotional cordon we throw around our hearts to keep the rest of the world at bay, OK?

JANET JACKSON
The Velvet Rope
(Virgin V2860 £15.99)

YOU have to admire Janet Jackson, if only for her ability to maintain her equilibrium while all around are losing theirs. Although perfectly capable of upstaging her brother Michael, as she did in the video of *Scream*, their duet in which she appeared as simply the coolest woman on (and off) the planet, she can still seem quite sane and sincere when the moment calls for it, albeit in that showbizzy, Diana Ross sort of way.

The title of her new album, *The Velvet Rope*, is a metaphor for the emotional cordon which we all throw around our hearts to keep the rest of the world at bay, a theme which she explores in the somewhat ineffectual track of the same name. But a more appropriate image might be to think of it as a tightrope along which Jackson struts, deftly balancing tense, *state-of-the-art* dance tracks such as *You* on the one side, and saccharine-sweet ballads including *Special* ("I have a need to feel real special") on the other.

Her voice is better suited to the dance stuff, where the production by Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis sounds effortlessly modern and she performs with the taut sensuality of an aerobics class mistress. *Got 'Til it's Gone*, with its hip-hop beat and bewitching sample of Joni Mitchell's *Big Yellow Taxi*, and *Together Again*, which sets a Motown-flavoured tune to a romping house groove, are among the best numbers on the album.

Elsewhere, she has a tendency to mistake sexual for soulful, treating us to lots of salacious moaning and groaning on *Rope Burn* and *My Need*, but leaving an emotional vacuum at the heart of the George Michael-esque ballad *Anything* and a gently shuffling version of Rod Stewart's *Tonight's the Night*.

MIKE SCOTT
Still Burning
(Chrysalis 7243 8 57389 £13.99)

HAVING belatedly embarked on a solo career with an acoustic-folk album — *Bring 'Em All In*, released in 1995 — Mike Scott has now re-emerged as a born again rock'n'roller on the magnificent follow-up, *Still Burning*.

As always there is a lovely lilt of indeterminate Celtic origin in his voice, and a poetic thrust to his words. But now there is also a new backing band, built around the formidable rhythm section of Jim Keltner (drums) and Pino Paladino (bass), who inject a tremendous swagger into songs such as *Rare, Precious and Gone* and the recent single, *Love Anyway*. "Let's walk through the jungle/Put your arm in my arm/And should this ground start to crumble/We'll come to no *harm*," Scott sings in the stunning opener, *Questions*, to which the Memphis Horns lend an added punch.

Many of the songs are further beefed up by the harmony vocals of Ian McNabb, whose celebrated 1994 album, *Head Like a Rock*, this record in some ways resembles. Both albums share a spiritual bond with Neil Young, McNabb's having featured Young's backing group, Crazy Horse, and Scott's having been co-produced by Niko Bolas, well-known for his association with Young. And, like Young's best work, *Still Burning* is an album that brings fresh wit and tremendous energy to music steeped in the traditional verities of rock'n'roll.

SUEDE
Sci-Fi Lullabies
(Nude 9CD; two discs £16.49)

OASIS are often praised for their commitment to putting out good B-sides on their singles, and rightly so. But like so much else about the 1990s it was Suede who initiated the practice of including anything between one and four perfectly good extra new songs on every single they have released. After 12 singles, this amounts to a substantial body of work not incorporated on any album until now.

Sci-Fi Lullabies wraps this wealth of less familiar material — 27 tracks in all — in one inclusive package. While there is a preponderance of slow, dolorous and generally less instantly catchy songs than tend to grace the band's albums and A-sides, very little of it could be dismissed as filler. And several numbers, including *Killing of a Flashboy*, *My Insatiable One* and *To the Birds*, have been an essential part of the band's repertoire at different times.

How irritating, though, that this wonderful package, complete with lyrics and all release details, could not have found room for *Stay Together*, the one A-side not included on any of Suede's albums, and surely one of their best lullabies ever.

PATTI SMITH
Peace and Noise
(Arista/BMG 07822 18986 £15.49)

PATTI SMITH'S return to the fray last year with *Gone Again*, after a 15-year retirement, was naturally welcomed as something of an event. But if she is going to make a habit of releasing new albums, then the hard work of convincing people that she means business begins now.

Thankfully, *Peace and Noise* is a dark and at times furiously powerful collection of songs that leaves no doubt about her intentions. As on *Gone Again*, the theme of death looms large — titles include *Dead City*, *Death Singing*, *Memento Mori* and *Last Call*. But here the stories are vehicles for social commentary — about Aids, the Heaven's Gate suicides, the Vietnam War — rather than personal reveries.

If there is a criticism, it is that the trad-rock arrangements and long historical perspective of numbers such as *1959* — "We built that thing/And it grew wings/In 1959" — give the album a backward-looking feel, making it more of an archaeological dig than a slice of 1990s rock'n'roll.

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TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(–)	**Urban Hymns**	Verve (Hut)
2	(1)	**Be Here Now**	Oasis (Creation)
3	(–)	**Portishead**	Portishead (Go! Beat)
4	(2)	**Marchin' Already**	Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)
5	(–)	**The Big Picture**	Elton John (Rocket)
6	(4)	**Maverick a Strike**	Finley Quaye (Epic)
7	(5)	**White on Blonde**	Texas (Mercury)
8	(7)	**Homogenic**	Björk (One Little Indian)
9	(6)	**OK Computer**	Radiohead (Parlophone)
10	(3)	**Butterfly**	Mariah Carey (Columbia)

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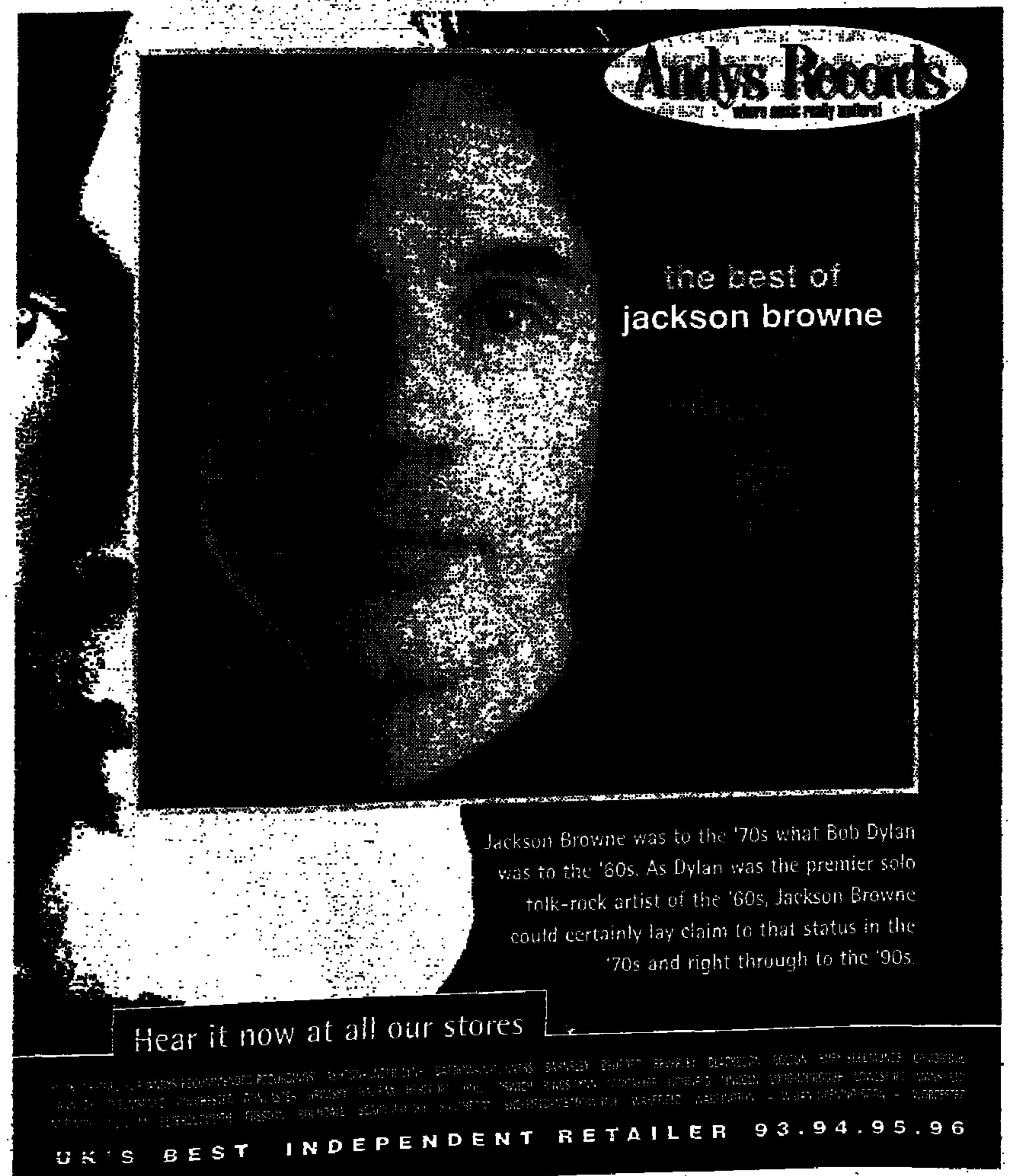
● *Figure in brackets denotes last week's position*



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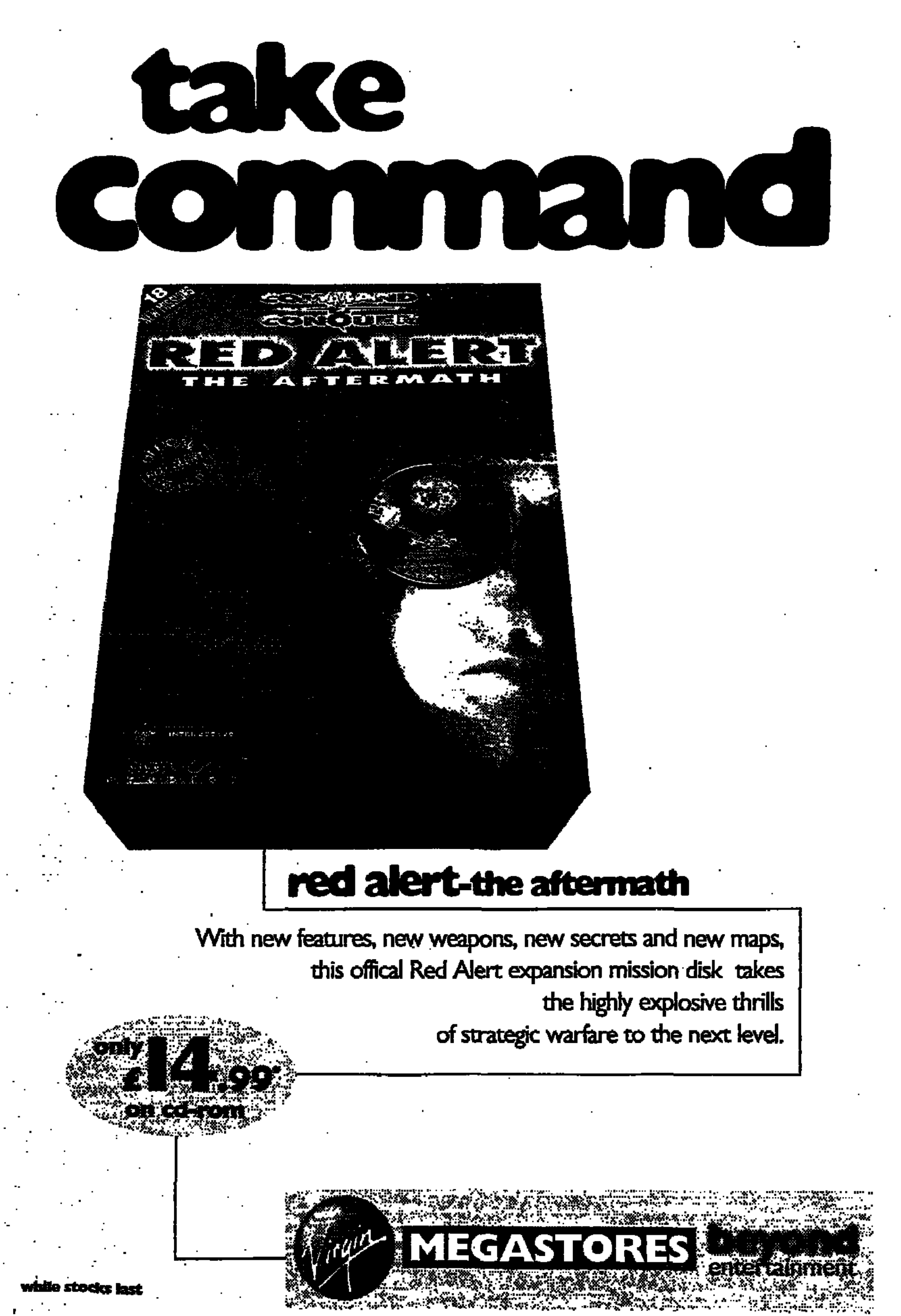

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The excluded are always with us

John Lloyd considers the poor — and the politically homeless

Fifty men and women, suffering from social exclusion, wrote an open letter to Tony Blair this week, hoping that the lamp of the media lit for the Prime Minister would spare a beam for their appeal. Their cry was heard but faintly. The Government ignored them and steamrollered on to the final victory jigs today.

The excluded are the kind of men and women the Government regards as a menace to society. They are professors of sociology and social policy, lodged in those crevices in the higher education system which were opened up by the expansion of academic research into social change from the 1960s. Generally leftish, dedicated to such notions as greater equality, they are to new Labour the academic equivalent of squeegee merchants, forever sidling up to one's car when one is in a hurry, offering to make one's vision clearer with a couple of pieces of research showing that life is more complicated than one's last speech.

The letter they wrote was published on Wednesday in the *Financial Times*, as befits missives from the excluded. It was a classic piece of social democracy of the kind Roy Hattersley has made the centrepiece of his second career as a Savonarola to new Labour, building a bonfire to burn away its vanities. The vanity he and the professors see is that which new Labour proclaims as *its* way of ending exclusion — through work, labour market flexibility and education, education, education. Work is good, say the professors, but not good enough; although redistribution is not the only route to a more equal society, "it would help". Ministers, however, "seem to have erased it from the map altogether".

Blair heard their cry but faintly

The letter was written too late to benefit from the Prime Minister's thoughts on the matter in his conference speech, but they would not have moderated its tone. He did not want, he said, hungry children, impoverished pensioners and anomic youth, and would not rest until the country in which they exist was gone. He then went on to condemn the Tories for raising taxes. Where he was more precise, and as passionate, was in making clear that the route out of exclusion was through work. "Get a job" is the message — insistent, backed with sanctions; in that virtue, and sociability, can again be found.

(Tony Blair's speeches, on such an occasion, have about them that modern contribution to the art of rhetoric: they moisten the tear ducts and cause the teeth to grind *at the same time*.)

The day after the speech, I went with some people in the voluntary sector to meet a few of the excluded. A group called Streetlife, composed of homeless men, had set up shop in an old warehouse beside King's Cross station in London, got together a few grants and functioned as a kind of advice and discussion agency. In the course of conversation, one of them — his name was Joe — said that the ideal for homeless people was, in the main, not to rejoin the "straight" world but to construct and to live in self-sustaining communities; a tradition which he noted went back to the Middle Ages.

But Joe's observation also confirmed something which is treated as obvious by those who work in the world of the excluded or dispossessed or poor. That is, that many do indeed not wish to be part of the "straight" world, finding more pleasure, more fulfilment and more comfort in an exclusion which seems repellent to the majority.

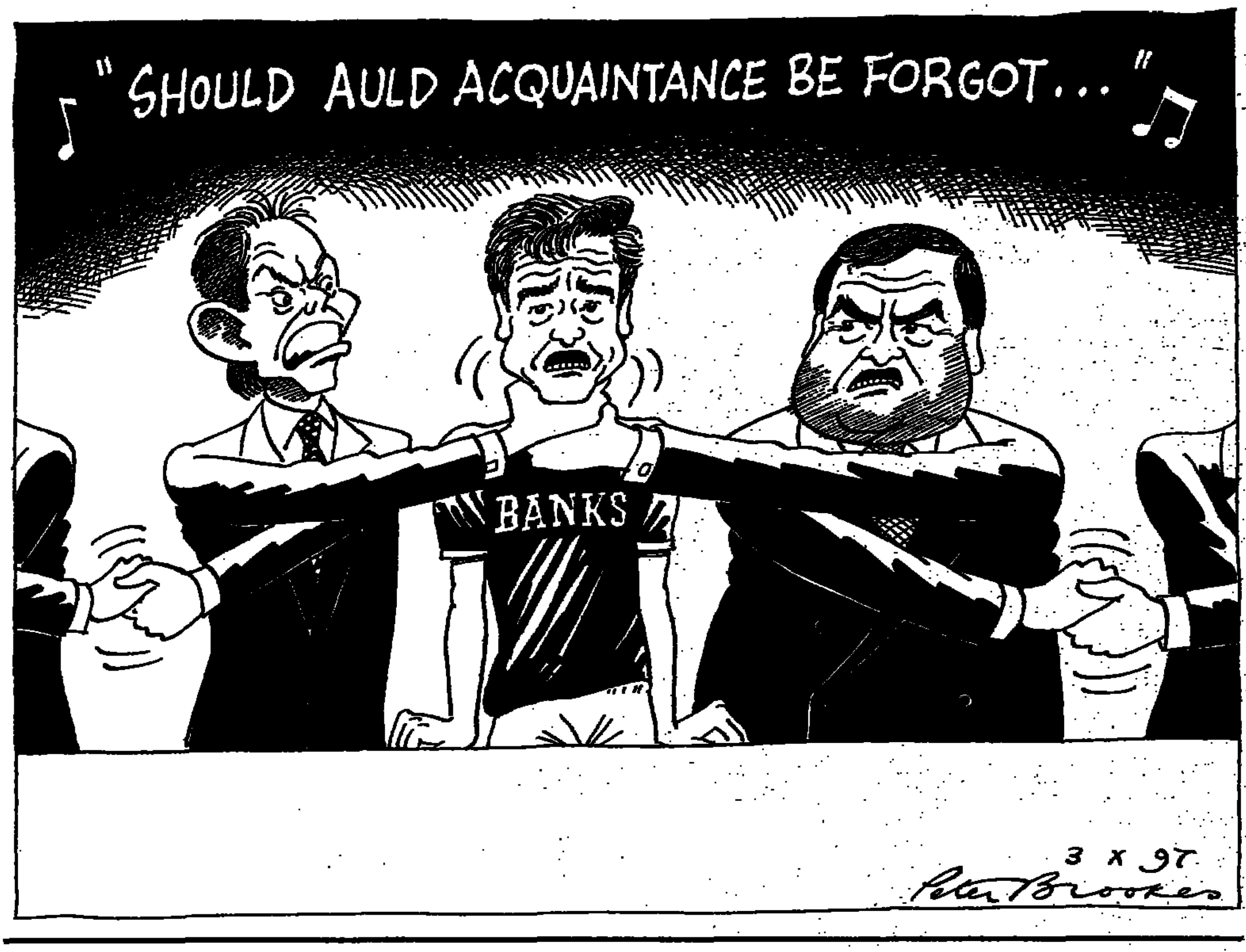
So what? a moderniser might say. Let them stay out. We design policies for that majority, especially the young among it, who do not want to fall into or remain in that marginalised world. Yet that response, fervent though it is in the belief that work includes and that inclusion is a necessary part of the Government's mission, runs against the objection of the 50 professors. Where no redistribution is attempted by the conventional fiscal means of taking from the rich and giving to the poor, then the widening gulf between rich and poor which was such a feature of the Conservative era remains, or even worsens, according to the workings of the market.

The lower slopes of the service economy which we, with all other advanced economies, have become are often a poor school of citizenship — poorer than the industrial conglomerations of the pre-1970s era where skill, union organisation and relative security gave shape to working-class society and thus to society as a whole. The modern equivalent is fragmented and often a deeply insecure place — fine for the young and self-confident who can flit or be knocked hither and thither; dispiriting and enervating for men and women beyond their mid-thirties, with families they either have or want, who experience the market more as unattainable or demanding than as filled with choice and opportunity.

It is the world we have; no alternative presently stands. But there are two "in-system" critiques. One is that of the 50 professors which demands that Labour returns to a redistributionist agenda. It demands that it capitalises on what has been invoked as a "giving age" — in yet another lachrymose, teeth-grinding phrase redolent of the Departed One — by using the fiscal system to take and to give, just like the good old days.

And the other is Joe's: the self-sustaining — or, for that matter, the scrounging — communities of the street people who want to stay on the street and to affirm their diversity by staying clear of the world of work, or at least of that work organised for them by the State. Less of a giving, but at least a living, age.

John Lloyd is associate editor of the New Statesman.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Making mugs of us all

A nation in the grip of mass hysteria cannot resist Mr Blair. But it will pass

Matthew Parris

Some 160 years ago a Whig, Viscount Melbourne, warned radical colleagues that they should not write the Tories off. He put it like this:

> I do not quite share in your confidence in the strength of the liberal party in England, and in the impossibility of the Conservatives ... how much the power of the liberals has always depended upon excitement and what is called agitation — this force is like that of a fever or epilepsy, almost irresistible at the moment, but transient and succeeded by weakness.

"Irresistible at the moment." That is how the Labour Party and its leader have seemed to me all week at Brighton. There is the feeling almost of a gathering wind, at first moving only the corners of the net curtains of my hotel room; then lifting papers and pamphlets, rustling trees; finally roaring down the seafront, blowing away the placards of protesters, throwing sand in the eyes of dissidents, shaking the very buildings as people take shelter and gape.

It is not easy to be a Conservative in these autumn days of 1997. It is not easy to see sceptical minds — minds of writers, minds of thinkers, minds better than my own — going down like ninepins before the force of a bogus political idea, and still hold fast to the knowledge that this is all just a fever, a kind of dream, and that it will pass. When a delirium takes hold, we struggle to believe it is not forever.

And yet I am gripped by a different conviction. It is that the palace of dreams is without foundation, the fabric baseless. Reach out and try to touch, to grasp at these coloured shapes and dancing lights — these "beacons" — and they dance away. Your hand returns clammy and cold, empty, save for sand. There is a howling void at the centre of all this: a huge, weird hollowness.

There is also a mendacity. To keep my grip on what is real, I place before me on the desk where I type a set of five new coffee mugs, sold here at Brighton in aid of party funds. Each mug is a different colour: strawberry, burnt lime, pale blue, magenta, yellow. These were the five colours of the billboards the Labour Party used in its general election campaign. The admen's strategy was cute: to use changing colours, changing messages, to gain attention for what was really the repetition of just a handful of simple, key sentences, and ram these home. They included: "Smaller class sizes", "More jobs for young people", "Tough on crime", "No rise in income tax rates" and "Waiting lists will be shorter".

Each of my five mugs in the five colours bears one of the messages. Or so it appears to anyone who never actually memorised them last April. If you did, you may find the slogan on the pale blue mug unfamiliar. It reads: "Treat more NHS patients." That was not the billboard message, which read "Waiting lists will be shorter". The past has been quietly rewritten.

I make no point about the inability of politicians to fulfil pledges, or about unexpected problems in the health service. I remark only on the small but signal dishonesty of changing the pledge on the mug. It is the work of a mind which has sought to alter the record: to airbrush out a tiny bit of history. To me there is always something a bit frightening about those who seek to persuade you that you have not seen something you have seen.

I stare up at that mug, and down at my text of Tony Blair's speech on Tuesday: "You kept faith with us. And we will keep faith with you"; "A Government of high ideals and hard choices"; "Creative. Compassionate. Confident of our place in the world ... A beacon to the world"; "On May 1, 1997, fear lost. Hope won. The Giving Age began" ... and I look back up at that blue mug and smile a small, secret smile, muse on the possibility that Mr Blair may next anoint himself Prime Minister of Hearts, and rediscover the confidence to be sure — whatever the fawning headlines and overheated media prose may suggest — that the love affair will pass.

For love like this is a kind of hysteria. I use the term not in its popular sense but as clinical psychologists use it. I do not mean that people start running around and waving their arms (although on the arrival of Tony Blair in Cinema One of the Brighton Odeon on Tuesday, one female fan did actually scream). No, "hysterical" behaviour is behaviour in which perception and judgment are subverted by an emotion of whose grip the patient is often unaware at the time.

The pathology of mass or group hysteria is well documented, although the means by which it is transmitted are hardly understood. It can spread like fire through a crowd, packed together. Spread (by the written or broadcast word) through a group who are physically dispersed, like what we are pleased to call the British intellectual establishment, the fuse is slow, the effect milder.

But at its most extreme, the raw power of mass hysteria can be staggering. Whole assembly halls full of schoolgirls start fainting; battalions of Zulu warriors can rush, whooping and bright-eyed with excitement, into gunfire; entire congregations of the devout can fall to the ground in a shaking fit of religious enthusiasm. I sensed a kind of group hysteria in the House of Commons during the Falklands War when, for many months, things that were true — or at least arguable — simply could not be spoken.

I sensed it, more fitfully, among Tory colleagues in the noon of Margaret Thatcher's ascendancy. Things were believed which were not believable. Critical faculties were suspended and the impossible became, for a while, credible. Germans who were alive during the Third Reich will understand me; those who remember the McCarthy era or Eva Perón will understand too. But mass hysteria is not an intrinsically right-wing (or left-wing) phenomenon. It is not an ideological phenomenon at all, but emotional. We may be moved to good or ill — to burn witches, burn books, save cities or idolise princesses — but what moves us is a kind of madness.

And it is not remember-able. This it is important to know about mass hysteria: that although the actions provoked can be recorded — although the flowers at Buckingham Palace can be pressed and preserved, although the things we are led to believe may be written down and filed away — the feelings which inspired them can never be recalled. That is why the bare record of what people will do can be so baffling. Nobody can remember the hysteria itself.

"We've rejoined the same planet as the rest of the world," Robin Cook told the conference yesterday. No, Foreign Secretary, we've temporarily departed it. Until we return, I shall keep the memory from the Brighton Odeon of nearly one thousand people applauding a screen.

I shall record the fact that two million people in Britain who did not vote for Tony Blair now believe that they did; that a British press which had laughed John Major to scorn when he mentioned motorway cones offered not a giggle when on Tuesday the Prime Minister told an applauding audience of his concern that some teenagers spit. I shall photocopy the headlines about the "giving age" and the editorials about a change in "new Britain's" soul, and pencil a marginal note that some months previously Tony Blair had won a million and a half fewer votes than John Major did in 1992. I shall make a little list of promises Mr Blair made on Tuesday: to "end boom and bust", "borrow only for investment" and "strengthen family life".

I shall bury in a sealed time-capsule his printed vows to create "a Britain where no child goes hungry, the young are employed, and the old are cherished and valued to the end of their days", to make Britain "the new power of the information age", "the best-educated and schooled country in the world", "a model 21st-century nation, a beacon to the world", to end the common agricultural policy and lead the world into a crusade against global warming, and to usher in the "giving age". And I shall record my bemusement, not that one more politician with a cold talent for making people feel warm should say these things, but that for a short period, we were disposed to believe him.

And I shall look again at my five mugs, shut my eyes, breathe deeply, book a holiday somewhere with a comparatively vigorous intellectual life, such as South Dakota ... and wait. "Almost irresistible at the moment," said Melbourne, "but transient and succeeded by weakness."

Philip Howard

■ Alas poor Banksie, a fellow of infinite jest

Of course Tony Banks's joke about the Tories having elected a foetus as their leader and now wishing to abort it is in shocking bad taste. So, to a lesser or greater degree depending upon your sensitivities, were his other cracks about abortion, Peter Mandelson featuring as the Prince of Darkness, and Michael Portillo as television presenter compared to Pol Pot joining the *Teletubbies*. When the Prime Minister asked him if he would like the post of Minister for Sport in the Government, Mr Banks claims (unpersuasively) that he replied: "Is the Pope a Catholic?" And he adlibbed aside to his guffawing audience: "(I thought that would stand me in very good stead with Cherie and the friends of the Brompton Oratory)."

That was good going, at one meeting to have outraged taboos about death, Roman Catholics, tragedy, religion, sex, women and the Beloved Leader of his party. So Mr Banks has been reprimanded and exiled to outer darkness, or at any rate to Bratislava, to watch his team, the Blues, hitting the crossbar as often as his jokes do.

But of course Mr Banks should not be sacked for his bad jokes. They seem funny to some because down in the slag they contain outrageous diamonds of truth. And Mr Banks fills the ancient and useful role of court (Establishment) jester. Professional fools, licensed to abuse and poke fun at the high and mighty, have flourished from the Egyptian pharaohs until the 19th century. They have made their living from disrespectful and distasteful abuse of their masters in societies as diverse as those of the Aztecs and the courts of medieval Europe. At the Saturnalia they took over the cruel potentocracy of Rome for a topsy-turvy weekend. But after that, the plebs and slaves were penned back in their places, and out came the whips and axes for bad jokes.

Will Sommers, the real jester at the Tudor court, was the live model for Yorick, Feste, Touchstone and the other motley fools in Shakespeare, who sang sweet songs and told truths as well as playing the zany. The Fool in *King Lear* is wiser than the kings and courtiers, and gets whipped for his jokes. The official post of court jester has been abolished. But Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, unwittingly and unwittily, performs it for the Tory party. And Tony Banks does the business much better for new Labour. For rude jokes are a safety valve for the rude masses in all societies. And in the humourless tyrannies of the Nazis and the Communists, they were punished by worse outrage than headlines demanding the sacking of the jokers.

New Labour, new Britain, new rhetoric, but no old jokes. The high-tech sermons at the Labour Party conference have been fulsome, in its proper meaning, if you like that sort of thing, polished to pseud gloss by soundbite-merchants and headline-managers, and as full of moral uplift as the pitch by a born-again television evangelist. And those born-agains are twice as tiresome second time around. You expect Elmer Gantry to appeal for big brown notes in a bucket, and true believers to writhe on the floor. The young may just have heard of a Beatle, but a beacon? That is as antique a metaphor as a candle blowing in the wind, and surrounded by windbreaks and butlers with boxes of matches.

The new oratory goes in for alliteration of the genteel c-words: compassionate, caring, community, choice. Compassionate with a hard edge sounds like the sort of chocolate that gets squeezed in the box and rejected. But trendy "new" and patriotic "Britain" score even better than the compassionates in the soft new soap-opera speech. Those flashing eyes and quivering lower lip may charm the feather-headed. But enthusiasm and charm in speech is usually proportionate to vacuity in ideas. What the new rhetoric and any hot gospel are desperately short of are humour, irony, wit and some bad-boy bad taste. Why no heckling? Because evangelists want to be loved by everyone. Moral uplift runs on a tide of treacle with only wet, self-deprecating jokes.

Machiavelli advised ambitious politicians to avoid humour at all costs, because it causes only trouble. So it does. But Tony Banks is more useful than an ambitious courtier. He adds intelligence and bad taste to the people's love-in.

Final chord

A DELICATE dispute over the resting place for Sir Georg Solti, the Hungarian-born conductor who died last month aged 84, has arisen between his widow and Hungary. Its diplomats have expressed "considerable interest" in "who will have the honour of finally interring Sir Georg". They want to lay him to rest in Budapest; Lady Solti wants to bury her husband, who became a British citizen in 1971 and was knighted shortly afterwards, in his adopted homeland.

The conductor was cremated (unusually for a Jew) and the ashes are still with his widow at their North London home. And Lady Solti, his second wife, who met Sir Georg when she interviewed him more than 30 years ago, is determined not to let them go.

But the Hungarians are not to be deflected. "He is one of our all-time greats. He ranks with Bartok," says the new Hungarian Ambassador, Gabor Szentivanyi, stressing the need to "bring him home". One of his staff has a blunter approach: "He belongs to us."

Mr Szentivanyi is now engaged in "careful" discussion with Lady Solti, although a decision is being held off until after the three Solti memorial services planned for Chicago, Munich and London.

"We need time to work these things out," says an aide to Lady S. "We should proceed as he would have wanted — marking his memory within the spirit of his wishes. We are moving with great care."

● *SUCH an upstanding chap, the Prime Minister. Late the other night I found him and his wife Cherie studying a bracing set of questions displayed on a computer screen. "What would be your answer to number three?" I asked. This inquired of the PM whether he "would like to be dipped in honey and thrown to the lesbians". "Probably not," he replied before a mischievous pause. "But I would have to think about it."*

Lion's roar

STAND by for a scorching literary wrangle between Martin Amis and John Updike. Bruised by a batch of blunt notices for *Night Train*, his new novella, Amis is to harangue the offending reviewers — and Mr Updike is first on his hitlist.

THE TIMES DIARY

Most of the damning verdicts — "tosh" being a typical judgment — might be dismissed as mere sniping. Not so the scathing Updike review, coming as it does from Amis's beloved literary America.

"I need to know why they felt critical," he explains. "It is important for me to talk through the points they made and argue it out with them."

Updike's review could certainly prompt some arguing. Admitting to "hating it" in the first line, Updike went on to give reasons, which included "the unmentionable way the plot proceeds ... the solution of the mystery and the point of the book." Take cover.

Capital scrap

THIS could be revenge served as a dish so cold it will be frozen. More than 16 years after Lord McIntosh was ousted as leader of the GLC by a young Ken Livingstone, he is limbering up for a rematch. He wants to become Mayor of London — as, apparently, does Ken.

As Deputy Chief Whip in the Lords, Andrew McIntosh well remembers the coup of 1981. As the victorious Labour leader, he was supplanted by the leftist Livingstone. He believes he could unite the capital more than Red Ken or Blue Jeffrey (Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare). Then there is the matter of revenge. Says a friend: "He has had to wait a long time."

"There goes Tony Banks, putting his money where his mouth is"

Naked cheek at the café

WHEN Naomi Campbell made an impromptu late-night visit to the construction site shortly to become her London Fashion Café, she was nonplussed to find her builders dancing naked on the stage.

"She hit the roof," says a culprit. "She screamed 'what on earth is going on?' or words to that effect. Odd, really, when Miss Campbell spends many working hours in decidedly economical dress.

Café life has not been easy for Naomi. With partners Elle Macpherson and Claudia Schiffer, she is said to be embroiled in a rent dispute with the landlord of the Fashion Café, New York. The London launch has not gone swimmingly, either. It was to open during London Fashion Week but for some reason building work has run over schedule . . .

● A NOVEL plan to shore up the Empire from Bernie Grant: why not follow the French and allow our remaining Caribbean territories to elect their own Westminster MPs? You cannot call it colonialism, he insists. Certainly not.

● *WHO says all Labour delegates embrace the new order? The much-trumpeted blue mugs emblazoned with the comforting slogan "Tough on crime" have been withdrawn from sale at a conference shop — owing to lack of demand.*

Campbell: double standards

JASPER GERARD

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BLIND JUSTICE

Straw's action on race undermines his other efforts

New Labour is nowhere more conservative than in Home Affairs. Jack Straw's social conservatism is, however, not in the Tory tradition but authentically of his own party. The predecessor to whom he is closest is not Michael Howard, nor Douglas Hurd, but James Callaghan. It was Lord Callaghan of Cardiff who attempted to check the libertarianism of the Sixties when he promised to "call a halt to the rising tide of permissiveness" and his traditional working-class morality finds an echo in Mr Straw's deployment of new legislation to maintain public order. Mr Straw's stance is also in tune with a reaction in Labour ranks against the corrupted liberalism of the Left in the Eighties. The change was nowhere more apparent than in the loud applause Mr Straw earned yesterday for his championing of the police, unlikely heroes of any Eighties Labour conference.

The Labour Party has not, however, altogether abandoned the gesture politics of that decade. There is one government proposal flourished by Mr Straw yesterday which is, regrettably, more politically correct than politically astute and although conceived from the noblest of motives it is likely to prove counter-productive in practice. The Home Secretary's plan to introduce a new category of offence for racially motivated violence is a misuse of the criminal justice system. The Government's determination to tackle prejudice is admirable but the Home Secretary should have rejected the lobbying of the Commission for Racial Equality whose determination to effect legislative change will only work against the interests of those whom it wishes to defend.

Introducing an explicitly racial element into criminal cases in the manner Mr Straw proposes could turn trials into evidential minefields and ideological battlegrounds. The experience of America, most recently in the O. J. Simpson case, shows how dangerous and distorting it can be when questions of racial motivation dominate a trial.

Proving a racial motivation is not only an additional hurdle for the prosecution in any case but one which is likely to prove extremely difficult to clear. How can it be proved satisfactorily that a white man who assaults a black does so because of his colour rather than, say, resentment at the other's wealth or random indulgence in violence? Even if an individual subscribes to racist views by, for example, expressing open prejudice in conversation, how can it be proved that an assault is racially motivated as distinct from directionless thuggishness? As for the victim, will his hurt be any the greater, his wounds slower to heal, his loss less easy to bear, because his assailant's skin is a different colour?

Advocates of new legislation argue that racially motivated violence is an offence against not just the victim but his community. It is certainly true that there are Fascist groups which seek to set white against black by targeted violence, but the legislation currently proposed could play into the hands of those determined to poison race relations. In cases where black criminals assault white victims and no racial motivation is attributed, those determined to inflame ethnic tensions will allege that the Government's legislation discriminates against the majority population. Such malicious accusations may not carry much weight in Whitehall or the Strand but they will, unfortunately and inevitably, provide racists with an opportunity to play on unjustified, but persistent, prejudices in Bethnal Green and Bradford.

The figure of Justice is blindfold for a reason. Using the criminal justice system to make symbolic genuflection to political causes, however noble, only undermines the effective operation of the rule of law and fetters proper judicial discretion. Punishment should not depend on creating a statutory hierarchy of wickedness which elevates racial prejudice over any of the other ugly impulses towards criminality with which society must deal.

REVOLT IN ROME

Italy's Communists will determine Prodi's fate

A mere 18 months after the forces of the Left assumed power in Italy for the first time in 50 years, fratricide threatens their continued survival. From the moment of its election, the centre-left coalition led by Romano Prodi contained the seeds of its destruction. The consistent objective of Signor Prodi's administration has been early Italian entry into European monetary union. But the Government's parliamentary majority was dependent on the votes of the Rifondazione Comunista — perhaps the most unashamedly Marxist entity on either side of the old Iron Curtain. That party was always an extremely improbable partner in the quest for fiscal rectitude.

Until this week, Italian politics has survived the apparent incompatibility between Signor Prodi's ambitions and Communist hopes. The Government did manage to pass a budget last year that transformed Italy's prospects of matching the Maastricht convergence criteria. It achieved this only through a very substantial increase in taxation (of which the Communists approved) rather than an overdue assault on state spending. That formula has proved impossible to repeat. Signor Prodi has proposed expenditure cuts of 25 trillion lire (£9 billion) in the current budget. This includes a 5 trillion lire reduction in welfare entitlements, especially pensions. It is on such provisions that his political prospectus now depends.

These measures are essential for Italy's long-term financial credibility. If anything, the reforms outlined by Signor Prodi are insufficiently radical. Expenditure on pensions at present constitutes an astonishing 17.2 per cent of GNP. Whether Italy is in or out of EMU such a commitment cannot be sustained. But even the rather incremental change suggested has proved too much for the Communists. Their core constituency is located disproportionately among the elderly and trade unionists. They have declared their opposition to Signor Prodi's "budget for Europe" and in so doing have triggered a political crisis. This must be resolved in little more than seven days.

There are three possible outcomes to this impasse — none of which is attractive. The Communists could carry through their threat and — despite the undoubted risks involved — throw out the administration. An exceptionally unpredictable election campaign would then follow. Alternatively, the Government could seek support from the several parties of the Centre-Right. Such an arrangement permitted Italian troops to be deployed in Albania earlier this year despite Communist objections. On this occasion, though, the Opposition would certainly demand a much higher price for its support. Those conditions might include the resignation and replacement of Signor Prodi.

The final and most likely option is a belated compromise. It is hard to envisage a fresh budget formula that would both command full Communist support and be deemed sufficiently rigorous by the financial markets. The Government might endure but the chances of German public opinion and hence Helmut Kohl supporting initial Italian membership of EMU would recede. At some stage, Signor Prodi will either have to propose additional spending reductions or abandon outright his stated European policy. If the collapse of his premiership or the administration does not come next week it would follow at that point. In Italy, the unity of the Left and the advance of monetary union appear irreconcilable. This conundrum deserves consideration in London as well as Rome.

NOT FOR GIRLS

Boxing is barbaric enough already

Most people take the same view of female pugilism as Dr Johnson once took of female preaching, "like a dog walking on his hinder legs, not done well; but you are surprised to find it done at all". Yet in gyms and sports clubs all over Britain women have been training as pugilists for years, keeping in peak physical form with punchbags and pads, skipping ropes and speedballs. The boxer's training offers an unsurpassed all-round workout. As such it is not to be discouraged.

But ever since its foundation more than a century ago, the Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) has banned women from fighting competitively in Britain. This week it lifted that ban. Two 13-year-old girls — Emma Brammer and Andrea Prime — prepared themselves to create sporting history by fighting in a Stoke-on-Trent nightclub. But the pressure of adverse publicity led to yesterday's cancellation of the match. The cancellation was appropriate. For adult women to fight may seem violent and unpalatable, but to allow teenagers — too young to vote or drink — to risk themselves in the boxing ring is barbaric.

Pugilism dates back to the ancient Olympic arenas where men sparred — often to the death — with iron-studded gloves. In Britain, until the end of the 19th century, fighters competed in bare-knuckled bouts. But the first written rules of boxing were published in 1743 by Jack Broughton who encouraged the wearing of "mufflers" on the fists. Since then the history of boxing has largely been the history of attempts to regulate it — to limit the damage which it can do. This is never more the case than today as male pugilists increasingly abandon artistry for raw power. Almost certainly, if such a sport were invented today it would not gain Olympic licence or public approval. To encourage female boxing now is folly.

The physical risks of this sport — cut eyes, detached retinas, concussion and brain damage — have long been acknowledged. With women there is the added danger of injury to delicate breast tissues. Most of the ABA's medical advisers as well as the British Boxing Board of Control strongly oppose the decision to permit women to fight competitively.

There are hundreds of different sports to enjoy. Almost all are better suited to the female frame and strength than boxing. Emma Brammer and Andrea Prime have grace, skill and athleticism. They have an admirable energy and motivation. These would be more safely and productively channelled into another arena.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Who should bear the cost of an educated workforce?

From Dr Clive Coen

Sir, I regard the Government's intention of turning students into customers (reports, October 1; leading article, October 2) as perilous.

The academic record of this country has been largely based on early specialisation by a small segment of society during a short undergraduate career. A welcome expansion in university attendance has been achieved in recent years. Moreover, long awaited plans to broaden the sixth-form curriculum are at last being discussed. It will soon be apparent that our undergraduate courses are unsuitably specialised for the post-"baccalaureat" generation.

In the face of international competition we shall therefore need to extend these courses to ensure that a sufficiently high level of specialisation is eventually achieved. Yet, ironically, the notion that the beneficiary of university education is the individual investor, rather than society as a whole, is bound to diminish the opportunity for development in this area.

Student investors will naturally favour courses that bear fruit rapidly, and since most of them will have modest means, they will resist the proposition that the investment be extended. It thus seems clear that students with above average financial resources will colonise those undergraduate courses which are essentially academic (as opposed to vocational) and postgraduate degrees, which will be a prerequisite for the highly paid professions.

Our universities, already in transition, must not be allowed to regress through market forces into latter-day versions of polytechnics or ivory towers. They are national resources and should be sustained by raising income tax. Breaking its promise not to do so might be more popular than the Government imagines.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE COEN,
King's College London,
Biomedical Sciences Division,
Strand, WC2.
October 1.

From Dr George Boulos

Sir, The present Government was elected on, amongst other pledges, the promise of a commitment not to raise taxes for those of us in the higher income bracket.

Is it not obvious from its intention to charge tuition fees to students from such families while exempting those in the low-income bracket that this is their backdoor way to levying more taxes on the higher earners? Indeed, is it not a very shrewd manoeuvre to increase the fee contribution year after year while pretending to shield the less able?

If, as Mr Blunkett stated, the justification for introducing the contribution lies in the premise that those fortunate enough to obtain the necessary education to enable them to repay back the loan upon employment should consider it a justifiable burden, why then should it matter whether they come from high or low-earning families?

The obvious deduction must be that this is Labour's scheme to get back to its old ways of ever increasing the burden of taxation on the professionals.

Yours truly,
GEORGE BOULOS,
Tilehurst Surgery,
Tylers Place, Pottery Road,
Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire.
September 29.

From the Warden of Glenalmond College

Sir, Like most of my profession, and many outside it, I am very much against the charging of fees to university students. Mr Blair's remarks on the subject yesterday only served to highlight a serious logical inconsistency in his party's thinking on this matter.

We are told that fees will be charged, that loans will be given, but that students from low-income families will be exempt. Why?

If it is because, as has been argued, graduates' incomes in later life are higher and they should pay back some of the cost of their training, then why exempt anyone? If it is because well-off parents are expected to pay for their (adult) children's university education, why not say so?

That universities must be funded and that the old system was unsustainable is well known, but let us at least have clarity about who should pay and why. Better still, let us spread the cost, through income tax, amongst all those people in society who could afford it since it is society as a whole that will benefit from a well educated workforce.

Incidentally, those future graduates whose income prospects are so much better as a result of their education would, in their turn, pay a correspondingly higher part of the cost of educating future generations.

Yours faithfully,
IAN G. TEMPLETON,
Warden, Glenalmond College, Perth.
October 1.

From the Reverend Stephen Jones

Sir, In arguing that we should "not shed tears for those who are going to earn a great deal more because of the degree they get" in order to justify the imposition of £1,000 tuition fees on university students (report, September 29), David Blunkett overlooks two undoubted facts.

First, politicians of all parties have been telling us for years that the "country" needs more better-educated young people, and it therefore follows that it is not only the students who benefit from their education. Secondly, the gaining of a degree does not necessarily guarantee earning "a great deal more".

The philistinism of the previous administration has certainly taken root. What happend to education for its own sake?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN JONES,
30 North Road,
Carnforth, Lancashire.
September 29.

Trial by jury

From Mr Nicholas Wood

Sir, I note with alarm that the right to trial by jury may be done away with for a number of "middle-ranking" crimes, "such as theft, handling stolen goods and some sexual offences" (report, September 27). Were this to happen, the judicial system will be whittled down even further to a system of summary justice.

Justice is far too important for changes to be advocated merely for political or financial expediency. The effect of even a minor case, such as stealing a bottle of water, can have catastrophic consequences on defendants' lives, most of whom will naturally prefer the ruling of 12 people to summary justice.

The jury system also provides a constant public check on the excesses of the judiciary and the police. Do we really want sharia courts, or justice dispensed in the back of a police van?

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS WOOD,
20 South Hill Park Gardens, NW3.
September 27.

Suing of teachers

From Mr V. S. Anthony

Sir, Edward Fennell's article on suing teachers ("A lawyer for every lecturer?", Law, September 22) quotes solicitor David Isaac who predicts that American attitudes will spread. If so, the time has come to reverse the trend; things have already gone too far. The quality of our children's education is suffering as much needed resources are being diverted to defend against legal action.

The efforts to use legislation to protect children have frightened off those who would willingly organise valuable activities. Children are the losers. At least one educational charity is giving up organising holiday courses because the potential legal hazards are too great: there are even dangers in refereeing games.

A recent survey of head teachers in the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference showed that help with legal problems was the service they most wanted expanding. The time they spend on such problems is time not spent on educating their pupils. Parents say that their top priority in choosing a school is good discipline, and yet that job is being made more difficult and time-consuming by the intervention of lawyers.

Our schools strive manfully, under market pressure, to deliver the best possible academic results. The extra pressure which comes from the threat of legal action if results are not good will hardly attract more able people to a teaching profession already experiencing serious recruitment problems.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIAN ANTHONY
(Secretary),
The Headmasters' and
Headmistresses' Conference,
130 Regent Road, Leicester.
September 23.

Information 'game'

From Mr Alastair Campbell

Sir, Given that you had the full contents of my letter to departmental Heads of Information (report, October 2), I was surprised at the unbalanced account of its contents.

While it is true that I said the Government Information Service could "raise its game", I did so in the context of explaining that the new Government does not see communications as an add-on, but as central, and therefore a real opportunity for the GIS. I also paid tribute to the role of the Civil Service press officers, both in handling the transition and in the success of the Government so far.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR CAMPBELL
(Chief Press Secretary),
10 Downing Street, SW1.
October 2.

Death of Clive

From Sir John Sykes

Sir, Your report ("Moody boy who became true hero of empire", September 29) was marred by a somewhat morbid inaccuracy. Clive did not shoot himself, although he is sometimes supposed to have attempted to do so at an early stage of his career. To quote from a letter from my ancestor Sir Francis Sykes, a close friend and ally, to Warren Hastings, written less than a month after Clive's death:

> A few days ago died greatly lamented our friend Lord Clive, and tho' very ill, with his usual Complaint, Fits and Spasms, yet between you & me there is not a doubt but he shortened his life by a Penknife and thrusting it into the Jugular Vein.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SYKES,
Kingsbury Croft, Kingsbury Street,
Marlborough, Wiltshire.
September 29.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Marriage annulment

From Fr Roderick Strange

Sir, The interview with Sheila Rauch, the former wife of Congressman Joseph Kennedy II, who is protesting about annulment procedures within the Catholic Church, makes painful reading (September 23). It gave me the impression that she had not received some simple basic information about the nature of annulment. But it also caused me to turn again to the account of these procedures by your former correspondent, the late Peter Nichols, in his book, *The Pope's Divisions* (1981).

He was discussing matrimonial tribunals in the United States and wrote (p248):

> These tribunals give a strange impression . . . because they are quite different from divorce hearings or, for that matter, any form of legal proceeding familiar to Anglo-Saxons. They are a sifting of evidence gathered from a variety of sources and there is no clash between two parties. This is why psychiatrists are often deeply impressed with the tranquillity of annulment proceedings compared with the malevolence and emotional damage that easily follow a bitterly contested divorce case. A strong argument can be made for the assertion that divorces, as a general rule, have a damaging effect, while annulments can be beneficial. In both, a sense of failure is involved but in the process of annulment the human issues are not lost from sight.

Yours faithfully,
RODERICK STRANGE,
English Martyrs,
St George's Road,
Wallasey, Wirral, Merseyside.
September 23.

Authors' brainstorms

From Professor B. Brinkworth, FEng

Sir, I have been enjoying the memorable corrections (letters, September 10, 17). My own favourite reads:

CORRIGENDUM
to
One-hundred-and-Eleventh Report
of the Engineering Physics Sub-Committee
Aeronautical Research Council
Page 1, 4th line from bottom of the page: delete "possible" insert "impossible".

The (somewhat embarrassed) Secretary of the Sub-Committee at the time was

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN BRINKWORTH,
Cotswold House,
47 Cae'r Wenallt, Cardiff.

RA exhibition

From Dr Justin Seabrook

Sir, The objection by Mrs Eva Bellm (letter, September 29) to the painting of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, surrounded by pictures of female genitalia in the Royal Academy *Sensation* exhibition seems as illogical to me as the arguments put forward by critics of the portrait of Myra Hindley.

I have seen neither picture and have no great desire to do so, but censorship is not an answer to offensive material. All we may reasonably ask is that those displaying such art take sensible steps to warn potential visitors that the exhibits may upset them.

We are not a "Christian society"; we are a multicultural, multifaith society. No interest group (religious or secular) should have the right to impose their particular beliefs and prejudices on others. It is intolerance rather than modern art that is damaging contemporary society.

Yours faithfully,
JUSTIN SEABROOK,
9 Collingwood Road,
Northampton.
September 29.

London fashion

From Miss Karen Vincett

Sir, While I commend your recent coverage of London Fashion Week, I feel compelled to express my utter disappointment at the generally-poor and superficial media coverage of this spectacular event. Television broadcasts have been few and far between and, to say the least, lighthearted.

But fashion is not meaningless fun. As we prove our own artistic and design talent to the rest of the world, London Fashion Week heralds our success in playing host to no fewer than 53 designers and their shows.

The quest begins with educating the public to recognise that this is a serious industry. The effects of it reach everyone.

Fashion is big business. London is the place to be.

Yours sincerely,
KAREN VINCETT
(Fashion design graduate),
14 Pipers Croft,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire.
October 1.

Replanting after the Great Storm

From the Chairman of the Conservation Committee of the Garden History Society

Sir, May I comment on your report of September 26, "Given time, Mother Nature heals all", marking the approach of the tenth anniversary of the Great Storm of October 16, 1987.

Although the natural flora and fauna of England are important to us, they are not as significant as the English countryside as an aesthetic achievement. Generations of landowners have improved our landscape to answer their sense of beauty, in particular in parks; these contribute enormously, despite being only 2 per cent of England's land area. Today's picturesque improvers include the Government itself, principally through the Countryside Commission.

The Great Storm was a disaster and an opportunity at the same time. English Heritage set up a scheme for the repair of storm damage in "outstanding" parks, whilst the Countryside Commission set up Task Force Trees to deal with other parks and the wider countryside. Having been responsible for the English Heritage scheme, I can say that its priorities were as follows:

1. To persuade owners of important historic parks and gardens that specialist advice is needed for their conservation.
2. To promote the philosophical and practical understanding of park and garden conservation by consultants.
3. To put trees back in the ground (seen as the necessary political justification for spending public money).

The English Heritage scheme was (as far as I know) the first one worldwide specifically for historic parks and gardens. It and the Task Force Trees work afterwards became the springboard for the present Countryside Stewardship scheme run by MAFF and the Heritage Lottery Fund's urban parks programme.

I regret the impression given by your report that the work of Task Force Trees was a waste of time. Of course it was not. The Great Storm should be reviewed holistically, so that we may learn the lessons of conserving the beauty and complexity of the countryside in the face of great natural disasters.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JACQUES,
Chairman, Conservation Committee,
The Garden History Society,
77 Cowcross Street, EC1.
September 26.

Drink and health

From Mr Gerald Vinestock

Sir, Since the latest advice (reports, September 26, 29) is that we abandon eating red meat (cancer), white meat (*E.coli* poisoning) and I have already given up fruit and vegetables (pesticides), the bulk in my diet now consists of the recommended solitary aspirin each day.

Fortunately consumption of red wine is still permitted (letters, September 20, 25, 30), but can Dr Stuttaford tell me how many bottles I require to consume each day in order to achieve a balanced diet?

Yours faithfully,
GERALD VINESTOCK,
2 Overhead Cottages,
Capernwray, Carnforth, Lancashire.
September 30.

From Mr A. W. L. Frentzel-Fraser

Sir, Could Dr Stuttaford, whose views on drink are known to all, tell us what he eats — if anything.

Yours faithfully,
A. W. L. FRENTZEL-FRASER,
Squirrels' Run,
Chalk Lane, East Horsley, Surrey.
October 1.

Poet's plight

From Mr Neil Curry

Sir, Your obituary (September 26) implies that the poet Edwin Brock was not close to his mother. I don't know how he felt when he was ten, but in later life he was very fond of her, and especially of her malapropisms.

When things were going badly for him once, she consoled him with the words: "Never mind, son, it's just a phrase you're going through."

Yours faithfully,
NEIL CURRY,
2 Trinity Gardens,
Ulverston, Cumbria.
September 26.

North and South

From Mr Jim Wills

Sir, In your leading article on regional accents ("Brum's the word", October 1) you say that "in his constituency of Sedgefield [Tony Blair] drops 'ayes' and other Northumberland idioms into his speech".

I am puzzled as to why Mr Blair should drop Northumberland idioms into his speech when Sedgefield's in Co Durham. It is my experience that the people of Durham have almost as much love for the natives of Northumberland as they have for those of Westminster (wherever that is).

Yours etc,
J. WILLS,
14 Kirk Street,
Stillington, Stockton-on-Tees.
October 2.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 2: Members of the voluntary organisations who gave their services at the time of the Funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales and who helped with the collection and distribution of flowers laid by members of the public were invited to Tea with The Queen this afternoon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 3: The Princess Royal today carried out the following engagements in Phoenix, Arizona, United States of America.

Her Royal Highness this morning opened the High Technology Conference at Motorola University.

The Princess Royal later toured the Garfield and Coronado Neighbourhood Community Policing programme.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon attended a Luncheon given by the Governor of Arizona (The Honorable Jane Dee Hull) at the Executive Building of State Capitol.

The Princess Royal later opened the British Event, part of the UK/AZ Festival for retail shops, at Biltmore Fashion Park.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended the Mayor's Reception given by the Mayor of Phoenix at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

The Princess Royal afterwards attended a Dinner at the Phoenix Art Museum for supporters of the UK/AZ Festival.

Her Royal Highness finally departed Phoenix for London.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 2: The Duke of Gloucester, President, British Consultants Bureau, was received by the Governor of Aden (Mr Taha Ahmad Ghanim) this morning.

Later His Royal Highness visited Christchurch and subsequently laid a Wreath at the Commonwealth War Graves Ma'ala Cemetery, the Republic of Yemen.

The Duke of Gloucester later visited the ancient water cisterns, Tawila Tanks, and afterwards opened the new offices of the British Council in Aden.

This afternoon His Royal Highness attended a Luncheon given by the Governor of Aden at the Diplomatic Club and later laid a Wreath at the Silent Valley Military Cemetery.

Afterwards The Duke of Gloucester toured the harbour by boat and this evening attended a Dinner given by the Aden Chamber of Commerce.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
October 2: The Duke of Kent, Patron, the American Air Museum in Britain, this morning left Gatwick Airport, London, for Dallas, Texas, United States of America.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a fund-raising Dinner at the Hotel Crescent Court, Dallas.

Captain Dominic Hampshire is in attendance.

Royal engagement

Princess Margaret, as President, the NSPCC, will visit the society's Norfolk Child Protection Team at 246 High Street, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth at 3.00.

Service dinner

HAC
Major D. Ide-Smith, President of the Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club, presided at a dinner held last night at Armoury House. WO 2 Sir Christopher Walford, Field Marshal Lord Vincent of Coleshill, Master Gunner St James's Park, and the Earl of Selborne, FRS, also spoke.

Election

Mr Ted Chandler to be President of the British Veterinary Association.

For sale: Samphire Island, Essex, in the estuary of the River Blackwater, ringed by moored boats and half-submerged at high tide

Your private island, and a title too, for £70,000

By Joanna Bale

AN UNINHABITED island haunted by the ghosts of excise men murdered by smugglers 300 years ago is up for sale.

The 70-acre Samphire Island in the River Blackwater, Essex, is being offered for £70,000 with a Lordship of the Manor title granted by Henry VIII. Half-submerged at high tide, it takes its name from edible sea asparagus that grows there.

It lies in the estuary of the river between the yachting villages of West Mersea and Tollesbury, once feuding fishing communities whose rivalry was made famous by the Rev Sabine Baring-Gould in his classic Victorian thriller *Mehala*.

In the 17th and 18th centuries the river was a popular haunt of smugglers who used flat-bottomed boats to bring contraband ashore in the dozens of tiny creeks and inlets along the banks of the remote estuary.

Local legend has it that a group of excise men were murdered and their bodies buried in the mud when they stumbled on a gang of smugglers. Today yachtsmen moor off its shores and the only visitors are the occasional bird-watcher or wildfowler.

References to Samphire Island, also known locally as Sunken Island, go back to the Norman Conquest and it was also mentioned in the Domesday Book.

According to the owners, German-based Vladi Private Islands (VPI), the island has attracted worldwide interest, mainly because with it comes the title of Lord of the Manor of the nearby hamlet of Great Wigborough cum Salcott.

However, the new owner is unlikely to be allowed to set up home on the island as it is in the middle of a site of special scientific interest and close to several important bird and wildlife reserves.

VPI's manager Pedro Arez said: "We have had nearly 70 serious inquiries. I am not surprised at the level of interest; it is a very attractive island with a title. It may not be possible to develop the island but the owner will have mineral rights. There is also a small income from a wildfowl shooting club that currently rents it."

Genevra Caws, QC

A Memorial Service will be held for Genevra Caws, QC, in the Temple Church, Inner Temple, London EC4, on Thursday, October 16, 1997, at 5pm. All are welcome. For further information please telephone the clerk to James Curtis, QC: 0171 583 0410.

Dinner

Horners' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, was the principal guest and presented the 1997 Horners Award for Plastics to Professor John Amner of the Ford Motor Company, for equipment which identifies plastics in materials destined for recycling, at the annual dinner held last night at the Mansion House.

Mr Charles K. Howe, Master, presided, assisted by Mr Jeremy J. Cartwright and Dr Leonard P. Smith, Wardens. Mr Christopher J. Saunders, Headmaster of Lancing College, was the guest speaker.

Luncheon

Mid Atlantic Club
Mr John Monks, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Mid Atlantic Club held yesterday at Dartmouth House. Lord Ezra presided.

Reception

Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior
Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior was the host at a reception held at the House of Lords on September 18, on behalf of the BioIndustry Association. Guests included key players in the bioscience sector.

Baroness Ludford

The life barony conferred upon Miss Sarah Ann Ludford has been gazetted by the name, style and title of **Baroness Ludford**, of Clerkenwell in the London Borough of Islington.

Baroness Fookes

The life barony conferred upon Dame Janet Evelyn Fookes has been gazetted by the name, style and title of **Baroness Fookes**, of Plymouth in the County of Devon.

Premium Bonds

The following Premium Bond prizewinners were announced yesterday:

£100,000: 36AW 643170, winner has a holding of £2,750 and comes from Wrexham; 60RF 124120, £705, Leicestershire: 9AW 266948, £20,000, West Yorkshire; 8GZ 064434, £4,390, Tyne & Wear; 74HW 487659, £4,150, Pembrokeshire.

£50,000: 40SZ 251421, £17,912, Essex, 18LF 973265, £20,000, Carmarthenshire, 35GN 036662, £19,505, Essex; 69AF 703001, £1,000, East Sussex; 37AK 029267, £20,000, Warwickshire; 48ZN 529574, £5,450, Hertfordshire; 62TK 667132, £20,000, Essex; 24HP 909915, £10,000, Kent; 20YB 257120, £6,200, London Borough of Brent; 13MB 138652, £18,400, Cambridgeshire.

£25,000: 66SP 620003, £15,002, West Midlands; 7HL 968651, £2,039, Dorset; 41HB 002995, £2,000, Berkshire; 39AN 183323, £12,170, Hereford and Worcester; 47GW 719942, £10,400, London Borough of Ealing: 70BP 710666, £10,150, Oxfordshire; 21GF 926557, £13,526, Devon; 54SK 544893, £10,265, Co Down; 9BZ 934890, £14,000, East Sussex; 66BS 183921, £20,000, Staffordshire; 28HL 454033, £20,000, East Sussex; 53RZ 744330, £1,700, Co Armagh; 44NT 092765, £10,450, Surrey; 30KN 457133, £20,000, Surrey; 50GN 673820, £19,000, Kent; 56DL 480885, £20,000, Essex; 53TN 651007, £19,995, City of London; 42PT 734248, £4,100, London Borough of Barnet; 22YW 980887, £850, Kent; 9QB 844216, £945, Surrey; 34ZT 604649, £722, Kent.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Eleanora Duse, actress, Vigevano, Austria, 1858; Pierre Bonnard, painter, Fontenay-aux-Rises, 1867; Louis Aragon, writer, Paris, 1897; Thomas Wolfe, novelist, Ashville, North Carolina, 1900; Eddie Cochran, singer, Oklahoma City, 1938.

DEATHS: St Francis of Assisi, 1226; William Morris, poet, printer and Socialist, London, 1896; Gustave Stresemann, German Chancellor 1923 and 1924, Nobel Peace laureate 1926, Berlin, 1929; Sir Arnold Bax, Master of the King's Musick 1941-53, Cork, 1953; Sir Malcolm Sargent, conductor, London, 1967; Woody Guthrie, folk singer, New York, 1967; Jean Anouilh, dramatist, Lausanne, 1987; Sir Peter Medawar, medical scientist, Nobel laureate 1960, London, 1987; Sir Alec Issigonis, designer of the Mini car, Birmingham, 1988.

SOS became the international distress signal replacing the call sign CDQ, 1906.

The aerosol was patented, 1941

The first British atomic bomb was tested at the Monte Bello islands off the northwest coast of Australia, 1952.

Postcodes were introduced into Britain, 1959.

Tylers and Bricklayers

The following have been installed officers of the Company of Tylers and Bricklayers for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr George Edgar Newlyn Mason-Elliott; Upper Warden, Mr Denis Roy Munnery; Renter Warden, Sir Idris Pearce.

Clockmakers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Clockmakers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr Alderman M.B. Savory; Senior Warden, Dr C.R. Lattimore; Renter Warden, Professor A. Boksenberg; Junior Warden, Sir George White.

Insurers' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Insurers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr John Phillips; Senior Warden, Mr Charles Bowman; Junior Warden, Mr Peter Purchon.

Legal appointment

Mr David Perry to be Junior Treasury Counsel to the Crown at the Central Criminal Court.

Birthdays today

The Earl of Bradford, 50; Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, 73; Lord Bruce of Donington, 85; Mr Christopher Bruce, ballet dancer and choreographer, 52; Mrs Ingar Brueggemann, secretary-general, International Planned Parenthood Federation, 64; Lord Denham, 70; Mr R.W. Ellis, former Master, Marlborough College, 68; Sir Terence English, Master, St Catharine's College, Cambridge, 65; Mr Garry Herbert, rower, 33; Sir Roger Hervey, former Vice-Marshal, Diplomatic Corps, 63; Dame Pamela Hunter, former vice-president, National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, 78; Lord Knights, 77; Mr T.D. Melville-Ross, Director-General, Institute of Directors, 53; Mr William Newton Dunn, former MEP, 56; Earl Peel, 50; Mr Ruggero Raimondi, bass-baritone, 56; Sir Shridath Ramphal, former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, 69; Mr John Ritblat, chairman and managing director, The British Land Company, 62; Viscount Sidmouth, 83; Mr Gore Vidal, author, 72; Judge Monique Viner, QC, 71; Mr Reg Withers, former Governor, Brixton prison, 66.

Service luncheon

Sudan Defence Force
Sir Donald Hawley presided at the annual luncheon of the Sudan Defence Force Dinner Club, held yesterday, at The Army and Navy Club. Major-General Sir Jeremy Moore was the guest of honour.

Latest wills

Sir Tobias Rodgers, antiquarian bookseller, publisher, and journalist, of London W9, left estate valued at £629,501 net.

Margaret Isabel Hunt, of Raithby, Spilsby, Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £2,454,232 net.

Michael John Levi, of Shatterford, near Bewdley, Hereford and Worcester, left estate valued at £1,370,863 net.

Violet Jane Matton, of Seaford, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,696,269 net.
She left the remainder of her estate to the RNLI.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy and Royal Marines
COMMODORE: P A Dunt to be promoted to Rear Admiral, 5.1.98, and to be Director General Naval Personnel Strategy and Plans/Chief of Staff to Second Sea Lord and Commander in Chief Naval Home Command in succession to Rear Admiral R B Lees.

CAPTAIN: J W A Clayden to Sultan in rank of Cdre, 4.3.98; M G Lane to Staff of FOSF, 23.1.98; J L Williams to MoD London, 30.1.98

SURGEON CAPTAIN: D A Cunningham to UKSU AFSouth, 22.10.97.

COMMANDER: A R C Bennett to Nato Brussels in rank of A/Capt, 20.10.97; R W Gibb to FOSM Northwood, 3.10.97; T Johns to MoD London, 19/12/97; M W Westwood to MOD London, 27.2.98.

MAJOR: C W P Hobson - CTCRM 24.4.98

Retirements
COMMANDER N C Jackson, 12.12.97; G F Noble, 12.12.97.

The Army
COLONEL: J D Lacey to deputy Commander HQ Colchester Garrison, 29.9.97; R K Williams to HQ Landcent, 1.10.97; D M H Wright to Unicom Team, 29.9.97

Retirements
COLONEL J G Aldous, late RRF, 3.10.97; J S Doody, late R Signals, 30.9.97; A J Hamilton, late RAMC, 30.9.97; D E Smith, late RAPC, 30.9.97

University news

Oxford
The L.J. Witts Prize in Haematology or Gastroenterology 1996-97 has been awarded to Stuart Fernie Mucklow, of Christ Church.

The Bristol-Myers prize in Cardiology 1997 has been awarded to Parashkev Choudomirov Nachev of Christ Church.

The John Potter Essay prize 1997 has been awarded to Stephen Paul Hoole of Christ Church.

London
Royal Holloway
Professor John Lowe, of the Geography Department, has been elected Dean of Science from Wednesday.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.M. Bolton
and Mrs S.J. Haslam
The engagement is announced between Tony Bolton, of Heathcote, Derbyshire, and Sally Haslam (née Botterill), of East Sheen, London.

Mr D.I. Brown
and Miss E-J. Roberts
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Richard Brown, of Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire, and Emma-Jayne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Roberts, of Knaresborough, North Yorkshire.

Mr P.A. Cleaver
and Miss I.B. Solway
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Sir Anthony and Lady Cleaver, of Warsash, Hampshire, and Imogen, daughter of Mr Grahame Solway, of Stockbridge, Hampshire, and Mrs Vanessa Solway, of Sonning, Berkshire.

Sir John Drinkwater Q.C.
and Mrs J.T. Boscawen
The engagement is announced between John Drinkwater, of Meysey Hampton Manor, Gloucestershire, and Deirdre Boscawen, of Pennshill, Lower Slaughter, Gloucestershire. The marriage will take place quietly in January.

Mr A.E.H. Ealand
and Miss C.V. Coleman
The engagement is announced between Adam Edward Hamilton, elder son, of Mr and Mrs J.R. Ealand, of Mount Warning, New South Wales, Australia, and Clare Victoria, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D.P. Coleman, of Havant, Hampshire.

Mr J.E. Goldring
and Miss E.K. Geren
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Goldring, of Preston, Rutland, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr James Geren, of Iowa, United States, and Mrs Susan Hovey, also of Iowa.

Mr A.B. Holmes
and Miss R.L. Coles
The engagement is announced between Archibald, son of Mr and Mrs B.A.J. Holmes, of Benenden, Kent, and Rachel, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J.E.A. Coles, of Hambrook, Bristol.

Mr S. Matthewson
and Miss R.J. Quinnell
The engagement is announced between Scott, elder son of Mr and Mrs Murray Matthewson, of Cambridge, and Becky, daughter of Dr and Mrs Philip Quinnell, of Chichester.

The Hon A.F. Eden
and Miss L. Bartlett
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Nancy Lady Henley and of the late Lord Henley, and Liann, daughter of Mrs Patricia Vasbinder, of New Hampshire, United States and Mr Robert Bartlett, of New Jersey, United States. The marriage will take place on October 10, 1997 in Concord, New Hampshire.

Mr I. Newcombe
and Miss A.R. Curtis
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs Colin Newcombe, of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, and Ann, youngest daughter of Group Captain and Mrs Norman Curtis, of Worplesdon, Surrey.

Mr A.J. Normile
and Miss L.B. Whitaker
The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Normile, of Clonmel, Co Tipperary, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Whitaker, of Glenfarg, Perthshire.

Mr S.A. Rodwell
and Miss L.R. Beattie
The engagement is announced between Sam, son of Ian Rodwell, of Upper Hartfield, Sussex, and Jennifer Rodwell, of London, and Rosheen, daughter of Nick and Gaye Beattie, of Wing, Buckinghamshire.

Mr P. Seccia
and Miss L. Docherty
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs John Seccia, of New York City, New York, and Lisa, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Docherty, of Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr W.J.G.R. Yonge
and Miss A.E.J. Bennett
The engagement is announced between William Yonge, of Fulham, only son of Mr and Mrs Philip Yonge, of Sedlescombe, East Sussex, and Amelia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Bennett, of Parson's Green, Fulham.

Marriage

Mr W.E.P.M. Butler-Sloss
and Miss V.C. Harwood
The marriage took place on Thursday, September 4, 1997, in Gibraltar, of Mr William Edmund Patchell Minchin Butler-Sloss, younger son of Mr Joseph and the Right Hon Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, of Temple, London, to Miss Victoria Claire Harwood, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Harwood, of Nicosia, Cyprus. The bride was attended by Amanda Schofield.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Colin Bell, Curate, Whittle-le-Woods (Blackburn): to be Vicar, Stalybridge Holy Trinity and Christ Church (same diocese).

The Rev David Bickersteth, Priest-in-Charge, Harraby St Elisabeth (Carlisle): to be Priest-in-Charge, Maryport (same diocese).

The Rev Philip Brew, Team Vicar, Horwich St Elizabeth (Manchester): to be Vicar, Lostock St Thomas and St John (same diocese).

The Rev Philip Caton, Team Vicar, Parr St Paul (Liverpool): to Birkdale St John (same diocese).

The Rev Hugo Charteris, Assistant Curate, Byker St Mark and Walkergate (Newcastle): to be Priest-in-Charge, New Ferry St Mark (Chester).

The Rev Christopher Dalliston, Vicar, Boston St Botolph (Lincoln): to be *also* Rural Dean of Holland East (same diocese).

The Rev Andrew Dawson, Vicar, Shevington St Anne (Blackburn): to be International Officer (and Team Leader for Evangelism, Ecumenism and International Affairs) (same diocese).

The Rev Alan Denyer, Rector, Lydbury North w Hopesay and Edgton (Hereford): to be NSM Assistant Priest, Long Preston w Tosside, and Slaidburn (Blackburn).

The Rev Raymond Elbourne, Rector, Odd Rode (Chester) became *also* Rural Dean of Congleton (same diocese).

The Rev Paul Harris, Vicar, Bitterne Holy Saviour (Winchester): to be Head of Evangelism at the Evangelical Alliance.

The Rev Toby Humphry, Curate, Westhoughton St Bartholomew (Manchester): to be Team Vicar, Atherton with special responsibility for St John the Baptist (same diocese).

Canon Paul Jobson, Vicar, Seaham w Seaham Harbour (Durham): to be Priest-in-Charge, Pimlico St Saviour (London).

The Rev Jacqueline Kendall, Assistant Curate, Helsby, Alvanley and Manley, and Dunham-on-the-Hill (Chester): to be Assistant Curate, Timperley (same diocese).

Retirements and resignations

The Very Rev Brian Horlock, Dean of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Gibraltar, and also Chaplain, Gibraltar (Europe) retired June 7.

The Rev Mary Hudson, NSM, Kings Norton St Nicholas (Birmingham) retired August 31.

The Rev Edward O'Connor, Chaplain, HMP Kingston (Portsmouth) retired September 20.

The Rev Brian Porter, Assistant Chaplain, Christ Church Amsterdam (The Netherlands; Europe) to retire October 15.

The Rev Ted Pratt, Vicar, Southsea St Simon (Portsmouth) to retire October 3 for health reasons.

Other appointment

Ann Conway-Jones, *to be Assistant Chaplain, Birmingham University (Birmingham).*

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This much I will admit: I am a follower of the new way (the 'sect' they speak of) and it is in that manner that I worship the God of our fathers. Acts of the Apostles 24 : 14

BIRTHS

SUDIER - On September 30th in Paris, to Olivia (née Scriven) and Charles, a son, Auguste, a brother for Ophélie and Hilaire.

CHAMPION - On 27th September 1997 in Edinburgh, to Jennifer (née Mackay) and Stephen, a son, Tobermory Cameron Mackay-Champion.

COOPER - On September 18th at St Thomas' Hospital, to Lynn (née Johansen) and Hugh, a son, Alexander Norvall Paris.

FAWSSETT - On 1st October 1997, to Andrew and Nicola (née Barker), a son, Thomas Paul Anthony, a brother for Michael and Matthew.

HARRINGTON - On October 1st, at the Clinique Ste. Isabelle, Neuilly-sur-Seine, to Isabella and David, a son (Nicholas Richard John).

HENDERSON - On 25th September, to Alison (née Lloyd-Jones) and Guy, a son, George.

HOLLAND - On September 29th 1997, to Kate (Webb) and Christian, a son.

HOLLYWOOD - On 25th September, to Sarah (née Thomas) and Peter, a lovely daughter, Amelia Grace.

JONES - On 27th September 1997 at The Royal Berkshire Hospital, to Sharon (née Birchall) and Neil, a son, Oliver Clayton Paul, a brother for Ashley.

KELLY - On 26th September at The Portland Hospital, to Sue (née Lovick) and Jeremy, a beautiful daughter, Chloe.

KIRK - On 30th September 1997, to Sophie (née Lawson Johnston) and Charlie, a daughter, Mamie Honoria.

LEVITT - On October 1st, to Alison (née Green) and Mark, a daughter, Sophie Francesca.

BIRTHS

LAUGHTON-SCOTT - On September 15th, to Jacqueline (née de Baat) and Oliver, a son, Hugh Edward Marcel, a brother for Louisa and Jocelyn.

LLOYD - On September 25th 1997, to Virginia (née Hanslip) and Christopher, a beautiful daughter, Verity Jade, a sister for Matilda. God's richest blessing.

MARTIN - On 1st October, to Sarah (née Wilson) and Charles, a son, Alexander David, a brother for Ben and Harry.

McDONALD - On 28th September at The Portland Hospital, to Janet (née Peacott) and Malcolm, a son, Hugh Joseph Graham.

OPRESCU - On September 23rd at The Portland Hospital, London, to Joan and Dan, a beautiful daughter, Laura Olivia Elizabeth.

ORGOVANYI - On October 1st 1997, to Mandy (née Barnett) and Gary, a son, Matthew Richard, a brother for Nicholas. Always remembering Alice.

PARKER-JERVIS - On September 24th, to Victoria (née Hutchison) and Andrew, a son, Clovis George Balfour. A little brother for Holly and Rowan.

RODRIGUEZ - On 27th September, to Kate (née Overington) and Nicholas, a daughter, Helena Lucinda Theresa, a sister for Frederick.

VOYSEY - On 23rd September, to Fiona and Paul, a beautiful daughter, Isobel Alice.

DEATHS

BAKER - On 1st October after a short illness, Francis Ambrose, beloved and loving husband of Pat, father of Simon and Caroline and much loved grandfather. Funeral at Dean Prior Church, near Buckfastleigh, on Thursday 9th October at 12.30 pm. Flowers to Gill and Eales, 26A Jordan Street, Buckfastleigh.

BAYFORD - David Aitham on 29th September 1997, aged 86. Beloved husband of the late Peggy, much loved father of Robin and Georgina and grandfather of Camilla and Alec. Funeral at Wootton St Lawrence at 12 noon Friday 3rd October. Enquiries to Alexander and Dry, Funeral Directors, Seal Road, Basingstoke (01256) 844663.

BELCHAMBER - Olive (née More). Suddenly on 28th September, Sunday, at home aged 72 years. Cremation 2.30 pm Monday 6th October at Worcester Crematorium. No flowers please but donations if desired to the Religious Society of Friends c/o R. Hill & Sons, Pershore, Worcs. Sadly missed by family and friends. May she rest in peace.

BENNETT - Joan on October 1st 1997 in Salisbury. Dearly loved mother of Eleanor, Elizabeth and William and widow of John. Funeral at St Thomas' Church, Salisbury, on Thursday October 9th at 11 am. Family flowers or donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund may be sent c/o H.A. Harrold, 77 Estcourt Road, Salisbury, SP1 3AX, tel: (01722) 321177.

DAWSON - Joseph died Monday 29th September 1997 aged 88 years. Formerly of Cumberland, latterly of Liverpool and Quarry Bank School. A gentle man, beloved of wife, children and grandchildren. Service and cremation at Springwood Crematorium, Liverpool, on Monday October 6th 1997 at 3.15pm. Family flowers only but donations to R.N.L.I.

HICKS - Simon Edward aged 73 years after a long brave fight on 30th September 1997. Father of Adrian, Andrew, Frances and Alicia, grandfather of Oliver, Eleanor, Sophie, Jack, Freddie, Harriet and Louisa. A great character who will never be forgotten by those who knew him. Funeral at Mattingley Church on Tuesday 7th October 1997 at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Injured Jockeys Fund.

JEFFERY - Cyril Cole FRCS "Jeff" on October 1st 1997 peacefully in Exeter aged 86. Dearest husband of the late Joy and a much loved father of Rosalind, Andrew and Corinne. Funeral Service Thursday October 9th St Lukes Parish Church, Countess Wear, Exeter 12 noon followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please.

KING-LEWIS - Dr Frederick Lionel on October 1st peacefully in his sleep at home in his 89th year. Dearly loved husband of Joan and devoted father of Peter and grandfather of Katie. Beloved Physician and friend. Private cremation. Please, no flowers but donations if desired, to The Samaritans and RNLI c/o Chelsea Funeral Directors, 260B Fulham Road, London SW10 9EL. Service of Thanksgiving for his life will be held at St Luke's Church, Sydney Street, SW3 on 16th October at 1 pm.

KING-THORNHILL - Doreen E. (née Eves), passed away peacefully at home in Devon on 1st October 1997. Will be sadly missed by Hal and her friends. Former Major in the MTC 41st Company, Exeter 1945-6. Funeral Service to be held at the Exeter & Devon Crematorium on Tuesday 7th October at 11.15 am. No flowers please but donations if desired for Cancer Research are being accepted c/o Overmass & Chapple Funerals, Chapple Court, Seaton, EX12 2RB.

LESLIE - Michael (Mike). Former Classics Master at Fettes College, Edinburgh. Very suddenly at Eastern General Hospital, Edinburgh, on October 1st 1997. Mike, aged 72 years, much loved and loving husband, father and grandfather. A service will be held at St Adrians Church, Gullane, on Wednesday October 8th at 1.45 pm, to which all friends are invited. Cremation private thereafter. Family flowers only please.

LINKS - Joseph Gluckstein. On October 1st, at home, aged 92, son of Calman and Katey Links, beloved husband of Mary Lutyens for 52 years and stepfather/grandfather of Amanda, Anna, Nicole and Adam. Cremation Golders Green at 11.45 Wednesday October 8th. No flowers please.

LIPSCOMB - Margaret (Peg née Raven) on 1st October, aged 79 at Canterbury Hospital. Widow of John M. Lipscomb, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at Chilham Church at 2.15pm on Thursday 9th October. Enquiries to A. Welch & Sons (01227) 787801.

MATTEI - Primrose (née Humphreys) aged 90, very peacefully in Tunbridge Wells on October 1st. Devoted wife of the late Francis (Cic), much loved mother of John and grandmother of Jessica, Lisa and Joseph. Requiem Mass at St Augustine's Church, Tunbridge Wells, on Friday 10th October at 2 pm followed by private cremation. Flowers to St Augustine's Church.

MITCHELL - Jonathan (Jonnie) suddenly at home on September 27th 1997 aged 55, beloved husband of Jasmine. Private family funeral. Service of Thanksgiving for his life at 3 pm Friday, October 10th 1997 at Battersea Parish Church (St Mary's), Battersea Church Road, London SW11. Donations if wished to RNLI. All enquiries to J.H. Kenyon (0171) 834-4624.

O'LEARY - Canon Maurice Plunkett, after a short illness on 31st August, aged 77. Will be much missed by his family, and friends in Harpenden and around the world. He was best known for his pioneering work in developing family counselling and support services whilst at C.M.A.C. (now Marriage Care) and in related organisations around the world. Many will recall his late night hospitality and storytelling, and, in later years, newly acquired culinary skills. He will be remembered for his erudition, wit and life-long struggle with punctuality.

REDGRAVE - Deirdre Deline (née Hamilton-Hill) on 29th September peacefully after a long illness. Most beloved mother of Jemma and Luke and sister of Patrick. She was a phenomenal woman whose extraordinary bravery over the last seven years was an example to everyone. Funeral 11 am Thursday 9th October at St Paul's Church, Bedford Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9ED.

RITCHIE - Lyn, Evelyn Jean Orcutt Ritchie. Wayne County, Michigan, April 24th 1919, Reykjavik, Iceland, September 26th 1997. Lyn served with the Red Cross in Iceland, England and France during World War II, and also lived in England at Wethersfield AFB for an extended period with her husband, a U.S. Air Force Colonel. Subsequently, she worked for US News and Report and other American media, before moving to the Netherlands in 1960 where she handled marketing for KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and public relations for the Hilton Hotel group. In 1968, Lyn set up her own public relations bureau, P.J. Ritchie Associates. Recently, she had decided to return to her home country and visit old friends along the way. We will remember her as a warm, witty, wonderful woman ... a truly inspiring friend. From loving friends and colleagues. Memorial gathering Monday, October 6th 1997. Correspondence to: Ann Campbell-Lord, Amsteldijk 126. Fax: 31-20-675-1102.

RICHARDS - Janet Elizabeth (née Campbell) peacefully on 30th September 1997 after a short illness. Widow of Dr A.H. Mordaunt Richards. Loving and much loved mother of Christopher, William and Alison, grandmother and aunt. Funeral private. No flowers but donations may be sent to the Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Dysart Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire. Memorial gathering in early November.

ROBERTSON - Judith (Judy) 11th March 1949 - 30th September 1997. Darling daughter of Rene and the late L. Maurice Dale. Desperately mourned and missed by her loving husband, sisters, brother, niece, nephews and all who knew and loved our sweet darling.

SIMAIKA - Victor aged 93 died peacefully on September 28th. Very much loved husband of [illegible]. Funeral in Cairo Monday October 6th. No flowers but donations if desired to The Parkinson's Society c/o E. Taylor & Sons, 21 Corbett Road, Carterton, Oxfordshire OX18 3LG.

TODD - Judith Mary on October 1st peacefully at St Joseph's Hospice, Hackney. Dear sister of Ursula and Damaris and much loved aunt and great-aunt to her many nieces and nephews. Donations if desired to St Joseph's Hospice. A gathering of remembrance will be held later.

TURNER - At home in Edinburgh on 30th September 1997 Lt. Col. David Jamieson Turner, B.A., C.B.E., formerly Assistant Secretary Ministry of Power, then Senior Officer Scotland and Northern England, Department of Trade and Industry; beloved husband of the late Esther, dearly loved and loving father of Catherine, Elizabeth and Marilyn and dearest grandfather of Katie and David. Funeral private.

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OBITUARIES

MILNER GRAY

Milner Gray, CBE, graphic designer, died on September 29 aged 97. He was born on October 8, 1899.

Milner Gray helped to invent the British graphic design industry, and in the course of a long life he changed the very perception of design, and trained many of the best practitioners.

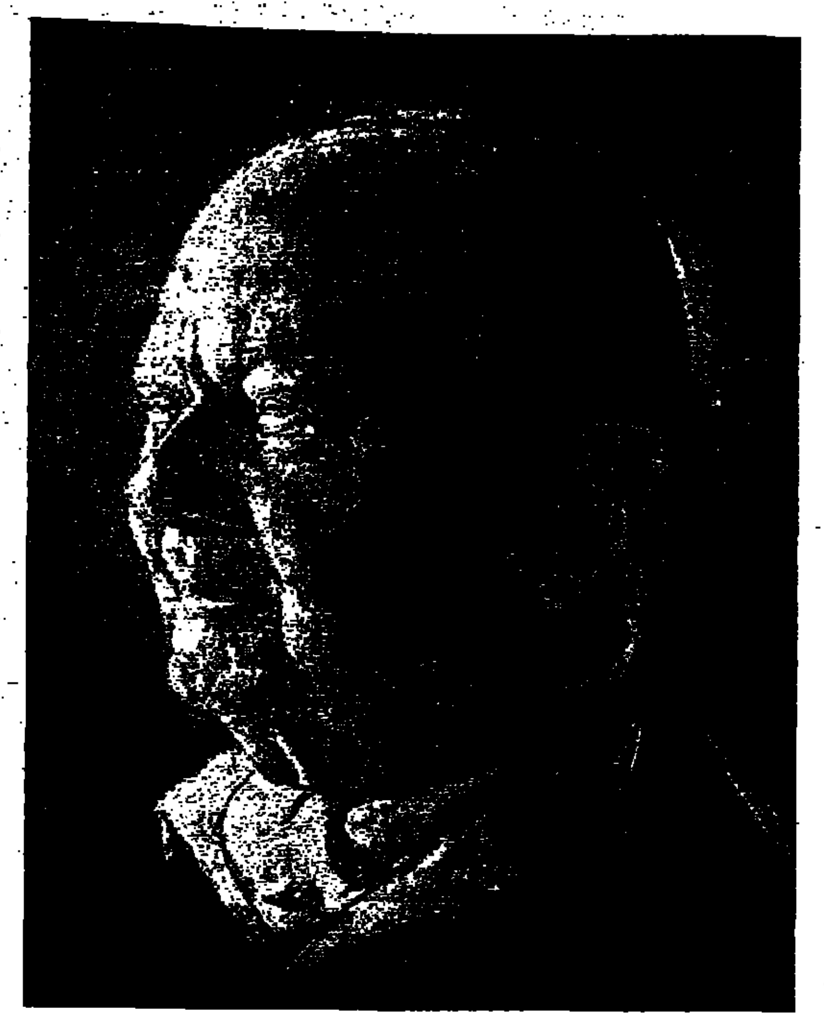
As a young man, he was one of the first in Britain to recognise a change of climate, from the fostering of craft traditions around the turn of the century to an emphasis on art and image as crucial to industry. During the 1920s and 1930s he was one of a small group who brought about a revolution in attitudes.

Realising that modern companies and products needed designers just as modern buildings need architects, they set out to formalise the role of the designer. They saw the significance of the ideas emerging from the Bauhaus in Germany, which were challenging conventional design wisdoms and reflecting the age of science and technology. But Gray himself never attempted to ape the attitudes or styles of the Bauhaus. Instead, much of his work drew on traditional ideas that were more suited to the British way of life.

He was a consummate draughtsman, as much at home with the traditional art of heraldry as with new developments in typography. Although he was essentially a graphic designer, he was also accomplished in the design of products, including ceramics, silverware, glass and fabrics. One of his best-known emblems was the Jaeger lettering, still in use.

Milner Connorton Gray was born in Blackheath at the very end of the last century — and could remember seeing golfers on the heath, wearing red coats. He was educated at Colfe's Grammar School and Goldsmiths' College (where he was later on the visiting staff) before joining the 19th London Regiment during the First World War, and working on camouflage.

In the early 1920s he became half of Bassett-Gray, one of the first group design practices in Britain (it later became the Industrial Design Partnership). This specialisation and concentration of design talent was then unusual, but it was of course followed by many other consultancies. The scale of the industrial design profession today would have astonished its pioneers.



Milner Gray, in Graham Sutherland's last portrait (1980). The two had been friends since they shared a house in the 1920s

During the 1920s Gray shared a house in Blackheath with Graham Sutherland, who occasionally helped at the practice, designing china and other items. The friendship was to be lifelong, and Sutherland's last portrait, commissioned by the Chartered Society of Designers, is of Gray.

Gray, however, was concerned not only with his own work and the success of his partnership: he had the vision to see the importance of setting up an organisation to consolidate the new profession. In 1929 he and a group of fellow designers founded the Society of Industrial Artists, of which he was secretary from 1932 to 1940. He was the only member of the society to be twice elected president (1943-49 and 1966-67).

During the Second World War, he headed the Ministry of Information's exhibitions division, which produced benign propaganda such as *London Pride*, *Dig for Victory*, *Poison Gas*, *America Marches*, and *The Unconquerable Soul*.

At the same time, along with Misha Black and Kenneth Bayes, he was establishing the Design Research Unit, which was to flourish after the war. Their commissions ranged widely, from wine labels to every last detail on the cruise ship *Oriana*, down to the ashtrays. They were also advisers to such major exhibitions as *Britain Can Make It*, *Design at Work* and work for the Festival of Britain with Hugh Casson. In their heyday, when the progress of various projects was discussed in an office forum, Herbert Read was often in the chair.

For the next thirty years, the scope continued to widen, taking in product design, interiors and architectural projects. Gray was especially involved with house-styles and corporate identity programmes for leading companies including ICI, Unilever and British Rail. He directed a project for Watney's to make its pubs into a distinctive family, but was also a consultant for Courage and other breweries. Another of his specialities was the design of cigarette packets, such as Guards, and the use of bogus coats of arms to convey a feeling of authority.

He also produced more formal armorial bearings, for the Central Electricity Generating Board and the Post Office, and in 1976, the year of the *Queen's Silver Jubilee*, he designed the official emblem for street decorations.

Like many designers, Milner Gray was a squirrel. Over the decades he amassed an enormous archive, from which he could produce samples of his and others' drawings for almost any project. Since the 1950s he had lived in the lower part of a vast Palladian ruin.

Always a modest man, he had an infectious and endearing sense of humour, and went on singing word-perfect Gilbert and Sullivan into his nineties. His colleagues and friends were only mystified that his achievements should not have been recognised by any higher honour. Perhaps this was due to his well-known mimicry of Queen Victoria, in whose reign he had been born.

He married Guade Osborne-Pratt in 1934. They had no children.

PROFESSOR BERNARD DIETRICH

Bernard Dietrich, classicist, died from cancer on September 11 aged 69. He was born on April 7, 1928.

BERNARD DIETRICH was a distinguished classical scholar and a leading authority on Minoan and Mycenean religion, as the several entries under his name in the latest edition of *The Oxford Classical Dictionary* testify.

Born in Berlin, Bernard Clive Dietrich received the traditional thorough German grounding in the classics that was to equip him well for his life's work. After the turmoil of the Second World War, he came to England in 1946, and took a London honours degree at Southampton, to be followed by postgraduate work at University College London.

In 1952 his promise was recognised by his appointment as a fellow in classics and ancient history at St Andrew's College and as part-time lecturer at Sydney University.

In 1955 he became lecturer (and five years later senior lecturer) at the University of the West Indies. Then, at the age of 35, he accepted the chair of classics at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, where he enjoyed 14 happy and successful years.

By 1977, however, he was keen to return to Europe, and took the chair of classics at Aberystwyth, where he was to remain until his retirement in 1995. He was a highly sought-after lecturer at overseas conferences and was much involved in European schemes of inter-university co-operation, being closely linked with the Programme Mentor (Liège), the Revenue Internationale et Pluridisciplinaire de la Religion Grecque Antique (Athens and Liège), the International Council of the Centre d'Etude de la Religion Grecque Antique (Athens) and the Programmes Sciences Religieuses (Brussels).

For Dietrich, classics was a way of life. Like the Greeks, he hungered after new insights; and he travelled extensively in his quest for knowledge. Like the Greeks, he had a passion for competitive sports, in his case especially squash and tennis; and he had a great love of music and was an accomplished pianist. He also had the sense of wonder of the Greeks in his fondness for gadgets and computer games; and like the Greeks, he was very much an individualist who liked to do things himself: he was in his element doing odd jobs.

In the best traditions of the classics, he was a rounded, well balanced, civilised personality.

His many publications included *Death, Fate and the Gods* (1965), *The Origins of Greek Religion* (1974), *A Sense of Guilt* (1980) and *Tradition in Greek Religion* (1986).

He is survived by his wife, Ann, and their three daughters.

PROFESSOR J. F. GARNER

Professor J. F. Garner, environmental lawyer, died on September 2 aged 83. He was born on May 6, 1914.

JACK GARNER was a pioneer in the study and development of environmental law — a subject almost unheard of thirty years ago. Garner was one of small number of lawyers who in the early 1970s formed a local Solicitors' Ecology Group and later the national Lawyers' Ecology Group. When the UK Environmental Law Association was formed in 1986, it was he who gave the key speech.

His contribution to the awakening of interest in environmental law was acknowledged by the establishment in 1987 of the annual Garner Lecture. *Garner's Environmental Law*, which began life under his editorship as *The Control of Pollution Encyclopaedia* in 1975, remains a leading work for practitioners in the subject.

John Francis Garner was educated at Bancroft's School, Woodford Wells, and King's College London, where he took a first in law in 1936, proceeding to LLM in 1938. He followed his father into local government, serving articles with the town clerk of Brentford and Chiswick, and was admitted a solicitor in 1940. He then served six years in the Army, attaining the rank of major. After holding appointments as deputy town clerk, he was town clerk and clerk of the peace of Andover, 1950-60.

Garner wrote numerous practice works, relating mainly to various aspects of local government law, which ran to many editions. There were also more substantial works: *The Public Control of Land* and *The Law of Sewers and Drains*. He was much teased about the latter, but it is a learned work on a subject of great practical importance, and is still flourishing in its eighth edition.

But Garner hankered after more academic pursuits and, after trying his hand as a part-time lecturer at Southampton University, 1958-60, he was appointed senior lecturer at Birmingham. Here he rapidly made his mark as a law teacher and writer, producing his authoritative *Administrative Law*. The book, on a rapidly growing subject, has undergone many changes and continues in its eighth edition (by Professor Brian Jones) to be a leading work for students.

When a second chair of law was established at Nottingham University in 1964, Garner was appointed Professor of Public Law. It was here that his main work was done. He played a major role in the growth of the law department and in university affairs. Most law teachers are experts in the analysis of case law but Garner had the much rarer gift for expounding the effect of complex statutes in intelligible terms.

He was an enthusiastic comparative lawyer, producing, with Professor Neville Brown, a comparative study of English and French administrative law and participating actively in many overseas conferences. At Nottingham he was also faculty Dean.

He strove to improve the attractive university campus, where his interests in the environment were much to the fore. The whine of the woodman's saw would bring him running from a law tutorial, peremptorily to stop the felling of a tree until he had ascertained from the surveyor that there was a good reason why it had to go. Somewhat impetuous (he himself said he "went off at half-cock"), he was admired as a completely loyal colleague and teacher.

Soon after his retirement in 1980, Garner lost his sight. A generally impatient man, he bore his affliction with astonishing aplomb. He continued to edit his books, and even (with Brian Jones) to write a new one (*Countryside Law*). After the death of his wife, Margaret, in 1989, he lived alone, but he had a small army of willing helpers whom he marshalled for weeks in advance, with great precision, to read, take him for walks, to social occasions, to church, to plays, concerts and even films. He had hardly a dull moment to the day of his death.

Jack Garner is survived by his daughter, Adrienne, and his son, Peter.

PHILIPPE ROSSILLON

Philippe Rossillon, diplomat and head of the committee for the defence and expansion of the French language, died in Paris on September 6 aged 66. He was born on August 10, 1931.

WHEN President de Gaulle made the defence of the French language one of his diplomatic priorities in the 1960s, he turned to Philippe Rossillon to lead the crusade against the encroachment of English in French-speaking countries. For thirty years, Rossillon, a career diplomat, rode out of Paris like a modern day paladin, seeking to slay the Franglais dragon wherever it was to be found — whether lurking surreptitiously in bars on the tongues of the young, or staging a more open defiance in an apostate educational institution. He conducted linguistic missions for the preservation of the language to Canada, francophone Africa and to European countries where French is spoken as a minority language.

At all times he had backing from French governments, and he was something of a hero within the Gaullist movement. Some of his numerous foreign trips were concerned with straightforward encouragement of local French language activists and attendance at conferences. Others, however, were more controversial, and some had a strongly clandestine element.

In 1968, a year after de Gaulle's inflammatory "Vive le Québec Libre" speech, Rossillon, too, found himself in trouble in Canada as a result of somewhat provocative journeyings through Quebec and Manitoba. Pierre Trudeau, who was Canadian Prime Minister at the time, accused him of being "more or less a secret agent, acting clandestinely and surreptitiously". He was declared *persona non grata*. Friends said the federal authorities suspected him of organising arms sales to Quebec *indépendantistes*. This charge Rossillon denied although he was happy to admit that he had been campaigning actively for the rights of francophone minorities.

Rossillon graduated from the élite Ecole Nationale d'Administration, and married into the very rich Seydoux family, a Protestant dynasty controlling the Schlumberger oil industry group, the Gaumont and Pathé cinemas, film production, a textile empire and, more recently, the daily newspaper *Libération*.

The support of the family fortune, added to that of politicians from de Gaulle onwards, enabled Rossillon to plan his linguistic campaigns on an international scale, particularly later in his life when he combined his efforts for *francophonie* with those on behalf of *latinité*, the much larger world family of speakers of all Romance languages.

Rossillon, whose early career was in the economic division of the French Foreign Ministry, founded a political movement, Patrie et Progrès, in 1958, the year de Gaulle returned to power. The movement supported *Algérie Française* and proclaimed the need for a new concept, *Françalgérie*. After Algerian independence in 1962, many Patrie et Progrès activists switched to supporting Quebec separatism and the Walloons in southern Belgium who favoured union with France.

De Gaulle was, in 1966, instrumental in Rossillon's nomination as director of the Haut Comité pour la Défense et l'Expansion de la Langue Française, which he headed for seven years. The Comité gave way to the present Délégation Générale à la Langue Française, attached to the powerful Ministry of Culture.

In the mid-1970s Rossillon created a cultural, or linguistic, division of the Ministry of Co-operation, the main task of which is to oversee French aid to Africa. This provided him with another platform from which to defend the language.

The author of two books on de Gaulle and an *Atlas de la Langue Française*, he also wrote *Un milliard de Latins en l'an 2000*. Recently, he increased his estimates, saying that of 900 million speakers of Romance languages in the world, 150 million were francophones. This figure he compared with his own estimate of the number of people speaking English as a first language, which he put at 500 million.

His patriotism led to to his naming his two sons Kléber and Marceau (after two distinguished soldiers of the French revolutionary wars), while his support for French speakers in Haiti induced him to adopt two young Haitians. In the 1990s, as president of the movement Avenir de la Langue Française, he took advertising companies to court for violating the 1994 law which ruled that no advertisements in France could be published in English only. But when Rossillon took the French branch of Georgia Tech University, which is located in Metz, to court for having an English-only site on the Internet, the judge dismissed the case.

Rossillon is survived by his wife, who worked with him, his two sons and his adopted son and daughter.

ON THIS DAY

October 3, 1910

Laurence Housman, author and dramatist, brother of A.E. Housman, crossed swords with the Lord Chamberlain, in his capacity as censor, over plays which Housman wrote about aspects of court life. Housman was supported by such prominent figures as W.S. Gilbert, Somerset Maugham and Arthur Conan Doyle.

MR. L. HOUSMAN AND THE CENSOR

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—Without touching upon the question of the total abolition of the Censorship, about which some difference of opinion may exist, we would strongly urge that the rejection of Mr. Laurence Housman's play, without reason assigned, shows clearly the imperative advisability that the judgment of the Lord Chamberlain, in his capacity as Censor of Plays, should be made subject to appeal.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully.

Rudolf Besier, J. Comyns Carr, R.C. Carton, C. Haddon Chambers, Hubert Henry Davies, A. Conan Doyle, H.V. Esmond, James B. Fagan, W.S. Gilbert, Sydney Grundy, Henry Hamilton, Anthony Hope, Jerome K. Jerome, W.S. Maugham, Louis N. Parker, Cecil Raleigh, Alfred Sutro, I. Zangwill.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—As it is impossible for me to overtake and correct all the false excuses for the Censor's recent action which are being invented or imagined at my expense by those who favour a continuation of the present tyranny, may I be allowed very briefly to mention some of the things which my play does *not* contain?

(1) It contains no reference whatever to the FitzHerbert episode, or to the alleged bigamous nature of George IV's marriage to Caroline, beyond one single sentence of a dozen words, which already stands historically recorded. That sentence I was never asked by the Censor to delete.

(2) It contains no love-making between Queen Caroline and her reputed lover.

(3) It contains no unpleasant details of a Divorce Court character.

(4) It contains no intended application to the present day, beyond an exposition of the unequal treatment which, under the law of this country, is still meted out to women, both in the Divorce Courts and in Parliament.

(5) It contains no attack on religion, on morals, or on the institution of Monarchy.

(6) It contains no detailed reference to the character and conduct of George IV, except in one passage of the first act, and throughout the trial scene in the House of Lords, where the words are taken without addition from the published records of the time.

If, as I suppose, that scene is the main cause of my condemnation, I can only imagine that the Censor, and behind his back, the Lord Chamberlain, knew so little of the subject with which they were dealing that they believed all Brougham's speeches to be my own: and, having first adorned me with that resplendent compliment, therein found justification for the ban which has been laid upon my play.

I have here stated, for the instruction of the misinformed, all such possible points of objection as occur to me which my play does not contain. But — and herein, perhaps, lies the insuperable ground of my offence — it does contain, and deals throughout with, a situation of shame and agony, for which, without any direct word of reference, the conduct and character of George IV, are shown to be immediately responsible.

I am, Sir, etc,
LAURENCE HOUSMAN
Kensington, Oct. 1.

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The amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is DM 300,000,000.
The statutory declaration of the directors and the auditors' report required by section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at 51 Moorgate, London EC2R 6AE.
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THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY OCTOBER 3 1997

NEWS

Workers may finance care for old

■ Workers could be obliged to pay into a national fund to finance nursing care for the elderly and to take out a compulsory second pension to provide for their own old age under plans being drawn up by the Government.

Such a move, coupled with greater use of private insurance to replace state benefits, would transform the welfare state beyond all recognition — and legislation could be introduced as early as next year .... Page 1

Minister's minefield photocall

■ For the image-conscious politician photocalls can be a minefield. Fortunately Clare Short has never been unduly concerned about image. She found her minefield on Brighton beach, where a patch of shingle had been strewn with dud anti-personnel mines and warning signs .... Pages 1, 8, 20

BSE inquiry on way

An inquiry into the origin and handling of the BSE crisis is expected to be launched by the Government soon amid increasing fears that the true magnitude of the disaster has yet to be revealed .... Page 1

Car evidence

French police scientists have established that paint scrapes found on the wreckage of the Mercedes in which Diana, Princess of Wales died came from a Fiat Uno .... Page 1

Thou shalt not steal

After years of trying without success *to stop clergymen stealing* from his shelves, an antiquarian religious bookseller has at last stumbled on a solution ..... Page 1

Primary schools

Standards of reading and maths in primary schools have failed to improve for a decade and the results of national tests are unreliable, says a report .... Page 2

Quarantine plans

Pet owners may be able to return from abroad without having to quarantine their animals under proposals that could take effect by the end of next year .... Page 4

Disobedient wives

Brides will no longer promise to "love, cherish and obey" their husbands in a new marriage service drawn up for the Church of England .... Page 5

Boxer backs off

Emma Brammer, who was due to take part in a boxing match with another 13-year-old, Andrea Prime, withdrew from the contest because of the controversy surrounding the bout ...... Pages 6, 21

£2m landslide hotel

A landslide in which a clifftop hotel fell 150ft into the sea four years ago was blamed on the failings of a local council, and the owners won a fight for £2 million compensation .... Page 7

Snub over VC

Evidence has come to light showing that a New Zealand soldier *was unfairly denied a Victoria* Cross for bravery during the Second World War .... Page 10

Execution demand

Cuba says he's a highly dangerous mercenary in the pay of Miami terrorists, and when his trial opens today prosecutors have said they will ask that he be executed .... Page 12

US laser test

America is to go ahead with a plan to test a laser weapon against a satellite in orbit 260 miles above the Earth .... Page 12

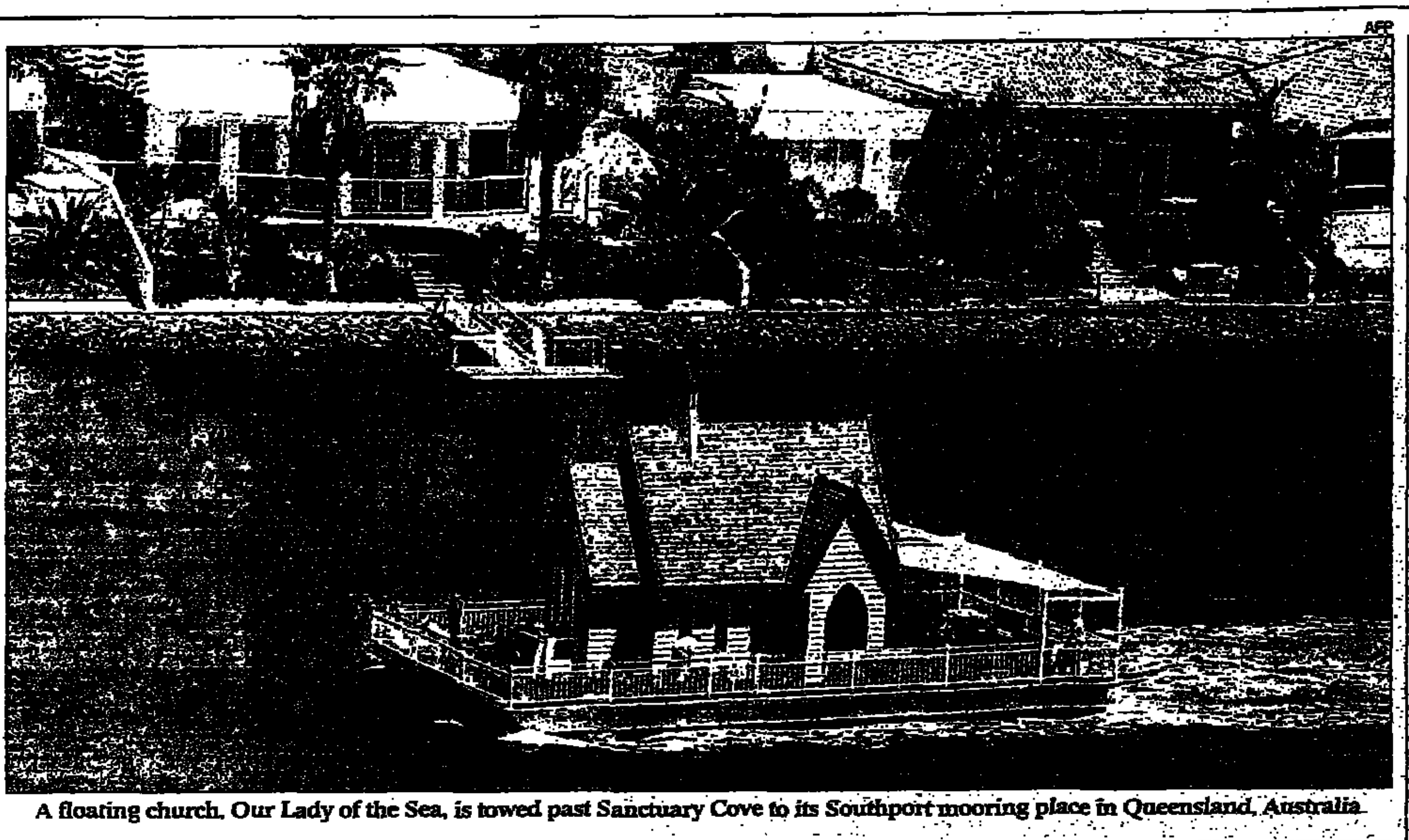
Canada's warning

Canada warned Israel over what it claims may have been the improper use of Canadian passports by Mossad agents who tried to assassinate a Hamas official in Amman .... Page 13

World's shortest man dies at 36

■ The world's shortest man, who dreamt of marrying a tall actress, has died. Gul Mohammed, 36, at 22.5 inches, was a familiar figure scampering through the fetid alleys of old Delhi, where he spent most of his life amid a dangerous mêlée of bullock carts, rickshaws and crowds who were for ever treading on him .... Page 13

AFP



A floating church, Our Lady of the Sea, is towed past Sanctuary Cove to its Southport mooring place in Queensland, Australia

BUSINESS

WH Smith: Tim Waterstone vowed to press on with his £1 billion bid to take over WH Smith, despite receiving a rebuff from the retail group's board .... Page 25

British Telecom: The board of MCI, the $30 billion WorldCom takeover target, was preparing the launch of a rescue operation for the proposed $24 billion merger with British Telecom .... Page 25

On-line: MAID, the database company, has agreed a $420 million cash bid for Knight-Ridder Information .... Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 21.0 points to close at 5296.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 100.6 to 100.5 after a rise from $1.6126 to $1.6161 but a fall from DM2.8633 to DM2.8547 .... Page 28

SPORT

Football: Manchester United's satisfaction at a job well done against Juventus was tinged with trepidation when it was disclosed that their captain, Roy Keane, will miss the rest of the season through injury .... Pages 44, 48

Boxing: Steve Collins, the WBO super-middleweight champion, broke down as he announced his retirement .... Page 48

Golf: Severiano Ballesteros, the victorious Ryder Cup captain, became embroiled in controversy after criticising a referee .... Page 48

Greyhound racing: Some Picture will win a £100,000 bonus and become the first greyhound to hold the sport's Triple Crown if he finishes first in the Irish Derby in Dublin tomorrow night .... Page 46

ARTS

Sit. vac.: What the Arts Council needs, says Richard Morrison, is "someone with the courage to ask why millions of people perceive the arts as being boring, exclusive, silly or irrelevant" .... Page 16

Stoppard's lad: Learning, aesthetics and homosexuality come together at the National in Tom Stoppard's new play about the poet and scholar A.E. Housman ...... Page 17

Classic case: Joe Jackson's chart success in the 1980s with catchy pop ditties concealed a degree in classical composition. Now he has returned to his roots .... Page 18

Soul sister: David Sinclair reviews the week's albums, from Janet Jackson's sincere *The Velvet Rope* to Suede's wonderful B-side package, *Sci-Fi Lullabies* .... Page 19

FEATURES

John Major: In our second extract from Anthony Seldon's new book *Major: A Political Life*, he tells how Tory election strategy was derailed by sleaze .... Page 15

[illegible]

Wild and chic: Designers have some funny ideas about women and nowhere are the fantasies wilder than in London, says Grace Bradberry .... Page 14

[illegible]

School lessons: Some independent schools "are not as successful as they seem" .... Page 37

FOOD

***Fun with food:** Four days of culinary* exploration are anticipated in *The Times* International Festival of Fine Wine and Food, where guests may taste smoked haggis, springbok and alligator, learn about oysters and place themselves ahead of all those leisure cooks watching television .... Pages 35, 36

[illegible]

Klaus Kinkel [the German Foreign *Minister*] *is taking his message of* peace for divided countries to Prague. It is no wonder that the greatest advantages still remain with the over-large Czech part of the country compared with its neighbour, which was shrunk dramatically after the division

Suddeutsche Zeitung

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **METRO**

Romance with strings attached: how Courtney Love was wooed and won by Kurt Cobain

■ **MAGAZINE**

With 36-page [illegible] fashion supplement; plus, a list of the richest kids in Britain

TV LISTINGS

Preview: The outrageous comedian gives her spin on the events of the week: *Jenny Eclair Squats* (Channel 5, 8pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond prefers aliens to *The Locksmith* .... Pages 46, 47

OPINION

Blind justice

Justice is blindfold for a reason. Using the criminal justice system to make symbolic genuflection to political causes, however noble, only undermines the effective operation of the rule of law .... Page 21

Revolt in Rome

In Italy, the unity of the Left and the advance of monetary union appear irreconcilable. This conundrum deserves consideration in London as well as Rome .... Page 21

Not for girls

There are hundreds of different sports to enjoy. Almost all are better suited to the female frame and strength than boxing .... Page 21

COLUMNS

MATTHEW PARRIS

It is not easy to be a Conservative in these autumn days of 1997. It is not easy to see sceptical minds — minds of writers, minds of thinkers — going down like ninepins before a bogus political idea .... Page 20

JOHN LLOYD

Fifty men and women, suffering from social exclusion, wrote an open letter to Tony Blair this week. The Government ignored them and steamrollered on to the final victory *jigs today* .... *Page 20*

PHILIP HOWARD

Of course Tony Banks's joke about the Tories having elected a foetus as their leader and now wishing to abort it is in shocking bad taste. So were his other cracks about abortion, Peter Mandelson featuring as the Prince of Darkness, and Michael Portillo as television presenter compared to Pol Pot joining the *Teletubbies* .... Page 20

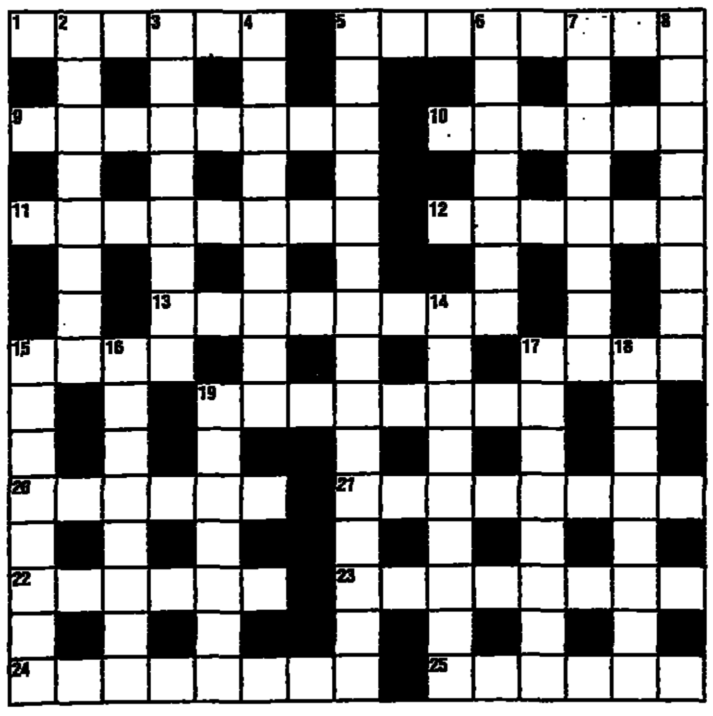
OBITUARIES

Milner Gray, graphic designer; **Professor J. F. Garner**, environmental lawyer; **Philippe Rossillon**, *diplomat* .... Page 23

LETTERS

University fees; Great Storm and replanting trees; *Sensation* exhibition; lawyers in schools; trial by jury; marriage annulment; liquid diet; fashion business .... Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,601



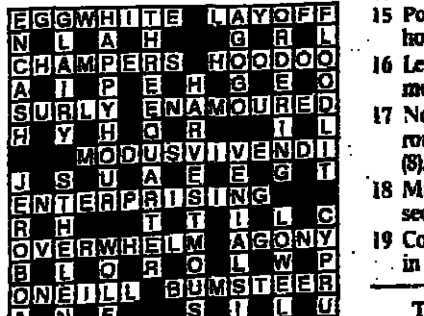
ACROSS

1 Rock stick girl tucked into (6).
5 Was obliged to eat fish – removing head was a nuisance (8).
9 Some lines in the capacity of rail transport (8).
10 After work, men wanting to see wine centre (6).
11 Relative was sorry about pretentious behaviour (8).
12 Acknowledgement of hit – note cry of pain held in (6).
13 Select as victim to penalise in exam (4,4).
15 A couple of ticks for good book (4).
17 Leaders of American pop industry surely revered in Memphis (4).
19 More got finished thus (8).
20 Extreme North American holds his end to be divine (6).
21 Twigs are shaken – one gets into college before start of storm (8).
22 Row between traders covered up (6).
23 Stop being so thick, and succeed around the world (4,4).
24 Less hidebound judge, say, has hidden objective (8).
25 Guard read out letter detected (6).

DOWN

2 Where members of school may be seen, all tanked up (8).
3 For instance, *War and Peace* text gives old general a lift (8).
4 Road-hog, for example, always hauled up? Rather! (2,1,6).
5 Fight of the century? (7,5,3).
6 Instrument old sailors found by sacred river (7).
7 Began to be snobbish about king (6,2).
8 Tubby philosopher is on edge, liable to breakdown (8).
14 No flies on this hat? (9).
15 Poisoner wasn't slow in appeal, hopeful chap (5).
16 Let former pupils have equipment, but no kit at first (8).
17 Notice cold sailor heading north round a couple of islands in sea (8).
18 Make deduction, accepting port is second rate (8).
19 Concealed so-called nightingale in part of garden (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,600



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MISLED REYNOLDS

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.04 am
Sun sets: 6.34 pm
Moon sets 7.32 pm
Moon rises 8.40 am

First quarter October 9

London 6.34 pm to 7.06 am
Bristol 6.44 pm to 7.16 am
Edinburgh 6.43 pm to 7.22 am
Manchester 6.41 pm to 7.16 am
Penzance 6.56 pm to 7.27 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Most of England and Wales will be dry with a few clear spells. But North Wales and northwest England will be more overcast with a risk of light rain. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be fairly mild but blustery with a few showers.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Isles:** any early fog should disperse to leave a fine, sunny day. A light west or northwest wind. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **SW England, S Wales:** mist and drizzle on coasts and hills, brighter inland. A light and variable wind. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, *Isle of Man*, Central N England, NE England:** dry with sunny spells. A moderate west wind. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** sunny intervals, then cloudy with rain later. A fresh west wind. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy with some light rain. A blustery southwest wind. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **NW Scotland:** cloudy with patchy rain, but drier and brighter later. A strong southwest wind. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **N Ireland:** bright or sunny spells in the south and east at first, but mainly cloudy with some drizzle in the north. A fresh west wind. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** mostly cloudy with occasional rain. Wind light or moderate westerly. Max 17C (63F).

☐ ***Outlook:*** the south will have a dry, bright and fairly warm weekend, apart from the far southwest. The north will be quite warm but breezy and unsettled, with rain on Monday.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

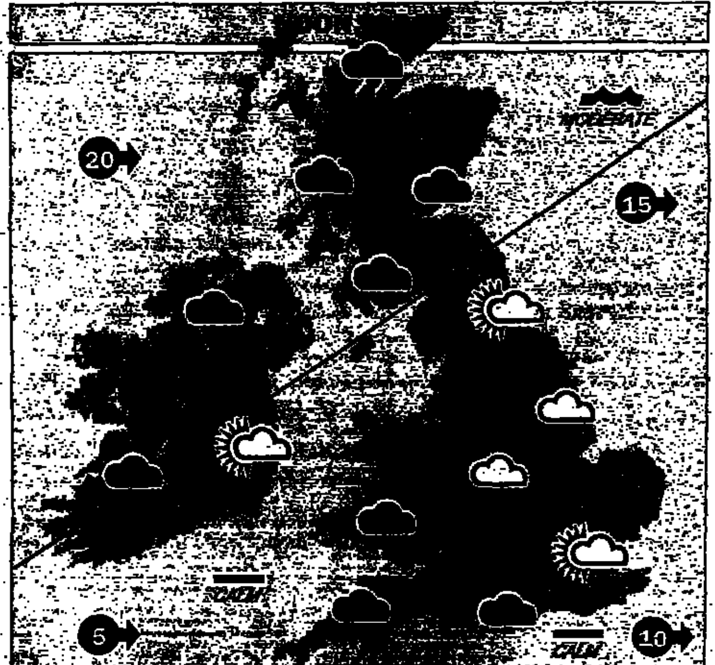
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	1.0	0.01	13	55	sh	Leeds	5.4	-	18	64	s
Anglesey	7.2	-	16	61	b	Lerwick	4.3	0.01	8	46	s
Aspatria	8.3	-	16	61	s	Leuchars	3.4	-	17	63	b
Aviemore	1.3	0.01	14	57	sh	Littlehmptn	10.4	-	20	68	s
Belfast	0.3	-	15	59	c	London	9.5	-	20	68	s
Bognor R	9.2	-	21	70	s	Lowestoft	6.4	-	17	63	b
Bournem'th	9.0	-	21	70	s	Manchester	4.6	-	17	63	c
Bristol	8.3	-	20	68	s	Margate	9.2	-	17	63	s
Buxton	3.7	-	15	59	s	Minehead	7.2	0.01	18	64	s
Clacton	10.8	-	17	63	s	Morecambe	9.7	-	15	59	s
Cleethorpes	5.7	-	18	64	s	Newcastle	6.1	0.01	15	59	s
Colwyn Bay	9.0	-	16	61	s	Norwich	7.3	-	16	61	s
Cromer	8.1	-	14	57	s	Oxford	10.2	-	19	66	s
Eastbourne	9.5	-	21	70	s	Penzance	X	-	22	72	s
Edinburgh	8.7	-	17	63	s	Ross-o-wye	7.5	-	19	66	s
Eskdalemuir	5.1	-	15	59	s	Salcombe	9.2	-	22	72	s
Exmouth	8.3	-	20	68	s	Saunton Snd	8.9	-	18	64	s
Falmouth	8.5	-	20	68	s	Scarboro'	9.0	-	15	59	s
Fishguard	8.0	-	15	59	s	Skegness	5.8	-	15	59	s
Folkestone	9.3	-	20	68	s	Southend	10.0	-	X	X	s
Glasgow	5.0	-	16	61	b	Southport	X				
Guernsey	3.8	-	21	70	c	Southsea	9.0	-	22	72	s
Hastings	10.1	-	20	68	s	Stornoway	-	0.05	13	55	r
Hayling I.	7.9	-	20	68	s	Swanage	6.6	-	21	70	s
Herne Bay	9.1	-	21	70	s	Teignmouth	9.0	-	21	70	s
Hove	8.1	-	21	70	s	Tenby	X				
Hunstanton	4.6	-	15	59	b	Tiree	2.8	-	15	59	c
Isle-of-man	8.8	-	16	61	s	*Torquay*	9.5	-	22	72	s
Isle-of-wight	8.9	-	X	X	s	Weston-s-mare	7.5	-	20	68	s
Jersey	1.8	-	21	70	c	Weymouth	7.1	-	19	66	s

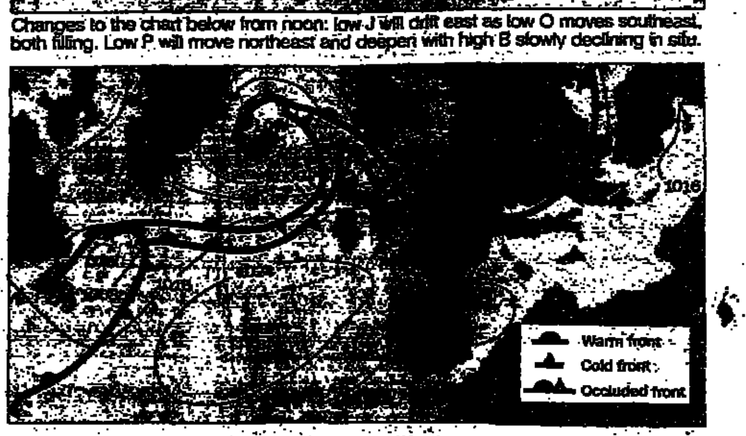
ABROAD

Ajaccio	25	77	s	C'phagn	13	55	f	Malta	25	77	s	Salzburg	14	57	r
Akrotiri	25	77	f	Dublin	18	64	d	Melb'rne	21	70	s	Santiago	23	73	f
Alex'dria	26	79	s	Dubrovnik	21	70	f	Mexico C	19	66	f	Seoul	26	79	f
Algiers	28	82	f	Faro	25	77	s	*Miami*	29	84	f	Sing'por	32	90	f
Amst'dm	17	63	d	Florence	24	75	s	Milan	28	82	s	St'holm	7	45	c
Athens	27	81	s	Frankfurt	20	68	f	Montreal	6	43	s	Strasb'rg	23	73	f
B Aires	19	66	c	Funchal	23	73	f	Moscow	4	39	c	Sydney	22	72	s
Bahrain	X			Geneva	21	70	s	Munich	15	59	r	Tangier	27	81	f
Bangkok	33	91	f	Gibraltar	22	72	f	N Delhi	29	84	s	Tel Aviv	26	79	f
Barbados	28	82	r	Helsinki	12	54	s	N York	15	59	s	Tenerife	27	81	s
Barcelona	27	81	s	Hong K	28	82	s	Nairobi	26	79	c	Tokyo	23	73	s
Beirut	26	79	f	Innsbrck	17	63	r	Naples	26	79	s	Toronto	10	50	s
Belgrade	16	61	f	Istanbul	18	64	r	Nice	24	75	s	Tunis	28	82	s
Berlin	15	59	f	Jeddah	39	102	s	Oslo	10	50	r	Valencia	27	81	s
Bermuda	29	84	s	Jo'burg	26	79	c	Paris	23	73	s	Vanc'ver	16	61	f
Biarritz	25	77	s	L Angels	25	77	s	Peking	25	77	s	Venice	19	66	f
Bordx	28	82	s	L Palmas	25	77	s	Perth	17	63	c	Vienna	16	61	f
Brussels	20	68	f	Le Tquet	18	64	f	Prague	16	61	s	Warsaw	9	48	f
Budapest	18	64	s	Lisbon	24	75	s	Reykjavik	4	39	f	Wash'ton	20	68	c
Cairo	28	82	s	Locarno	22	72	s	Rhodes	23	73	s	Wel'ngton	12	54	X
Cape Tn	25	77	s	Luxembg	22	72	s	Rio de J	26	79	f	Zurich	23	73	f
Ch'church	12	54	X	Luxor	31	88	s	Riyadh	37	99	s				
Chicago	14	57	c	Madrid	24	75	f	Rome	25	77	s				
Cologne	16	61	f	Majorca	28	82	f	S Fr'sco	19	66	s				
Corfu	25	77	s	Malaga	26	79	s	S Paulo	18	64	r				

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low J will drift east as low O moves southeast, both filling. Low P will move northeast and deepen with high B slowly declining in situ.



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	03.38	7.1	15.48	7.1	Leith	04.23	5.5	16.36	5.4
Aberdeen	02.54	4.3	15.15	4.2	Liverpool	00.45	9.3	13.00	9.3
Avonmouth	09.00	13.0	21.11	13.0	Lowestoft	11.08	2.6	23.36	2.5
Belfast	00.28	3.5	12.43	3.3	Margate	01.39	4.6	13.47	4.7
Cardiff	08.46	12.0	20.57	12.1	Milford Haven	07.56	6.8	20.09	6.9
Devonport	07.25	5.6	19.39	5.6	Newquay	06.47	6.8	19.00	6.9
Dover	00.34	6.5	12.50	6.7	Oban	07.32	4.0	19.30	4.1
Dublin (N Wall)	01.05	4.0	13.18	3.9	Penzance	06.18	5.4	18.32	5.5
Falmouth	08.58	5.4	19.10	5.4	Portland	08.34	2.0	20.46	2.0
Greenock	02.07	3.4	14.44	3.4	Portsmouth	00.48	4.8	13.08	4.5
Harwich	01.32	4.0	13.44	4.0	Shoreham	00.40	6.0	12.56	6.1
Holyhead	-	-	12.06	5.5	Southampton	00.15	4.5	12.31	4.5
Hull (Albert D)	08.00	8.7	20.19	8.6	Swansea	08.08	9.5	20.22	9.5
Ilfracombe	07.42	9.0	19.54	9.0	Tees	05.14	5.4	17.33	5.2
King's Lynn	08.04	6.8	20.26	6.6	Walton-on-N	01.24	4.1	13.36	4.1

All times BST. Heights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, and Southsea, Hampshire, 22C (72F); lowest day max: Baltasound and Lerwick, Shetland, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 0.10in; highest sunshine: Clacton, Essex, 10.8hr.

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هكذا من الأصل

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FRIDAY OCTOBER 3 1997

Scardino turns spotlight on disposal of Lazards

Scardino: reviewing activities

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

MARJORIE SCARDINO, chief executive of Pearson, the media and entertainment group, has identified an eventual split with Lazards, its merchant banking arm, as a strategic goal to make Pearson more focused and raise money for futher investments in the media sector.

When Mrs Scardino took over as chief executive of Pearson, whose interests range from Penguin Books and the *Financial Times* to Thames Television and Madame Tussauds, she made it clear she was reviewing all of the company's activities. The clear implication was that Pearson would eventually reduce the range of its businesses. In recent weeks Mrs Scardino, a former chief executive of the Economist Group, has made it clear she believed that, in time, a significant group activity should be sold.

City analysts have long called for a narrower focus at Pearson, which has been criticised for its conglomerate feel. Most analysts have assumed that the main target would be Madame Tussauds and Pearson's theme park interests. In fact Mrs Scardino, and the top Pearson management, have become increasingly impressed by the fact that Tussauds is a unique tourist attraction known all over the world.

In the 18 months there have been major investments, or commitments to invest in all the main Pearson businesses from education and trade books to the *Financial Times* and television. On Wednesday Pearson announced a $373 million (£231 million) tender offer for All American Communications, owners and distributors of game shows and serial dramas.

Mrs Scardino has now identified the Lazard interests as a disposal target, although it will be not be an easy thing to do and cannot be accomplished in the short term and may ultimately prove impossible. Pearson owns 50 per cent of Lazard Partners, a limited partnership registered in Delaware but it also has direct stakes in the operating companies Lazard Frères of Paris and New York.

Both Pearson and Lazards have the right to decide to go their own way in particular circumstances, such as a takeover of Pearson. Mrs Scardino will find it difficult to get a top price for Pearson's Lazard interests because there would be essentially only one purchaser — the Lazard partners.

The advantage to Pearson is that last year the company received a pre-tax contribution from all its Lazard interests of £40.8 million. The merchant bank absorbs little Pearson management time, requires no capital and relations between the two sides are good.

David Verey, chairman of Lazard Brothers in London, said last night: "Rumours of an imminent divorce are much exaggerated."

However, Mrs Scardino has set herself the public target of doubling the value of Pearson within five years and Lazards is the only piece of the empire that does not fit her strategic goal of creating a world-class information, media and entertainment business.

Barclays calls staff to BZW meeting

By Jon Ashworth, Michael Clark and Paul Durman

EMPLOYEES of Barclays de Zoete Wedd (BZW), the investment banking arm of Barclays, have been summoned to a meeting this morning, at which it is expected to be announced that the firm is being sold or hived off by way of a joint venture.

Shares in the banking group rocketed yesterday on a report in *The Times* of an imminent deal concerning BZW, the future of which has been the subject of fevered speculation in recent months.

Commerzbank and Credit Suisse First Boston — the latter with offices in Canary Wharf, where BZW is now based — have been tipped as the most likely candidates. Other potential partners include ING Barings: ABN Amro and Banque Bruxelles Lambert.

The Barclays share price hit an all-time high of £18 before slipping back to close at £17.47, up 25½p on the day. In a highly unusual move, BZW traders have been summoned to a meeting at 7.30 this morning. Members of staff have been called back from holiday. Martin Taylor, the Barclays chief executive, is due to address the meeting this morning.

Barclays declined to comment last night, saying: "This is market speculation and rumour and we don't comment on that." Speculation about a possible sale of BZW has been fuelled by a disappointing financial performance by the firm. Barclays has continued to invest in the unit which recently completed a move to its new base in London's Docklands.

Taylor: early meeting

BZW has been hit by defections since the arrival last year of Bill Harrison, who joined from Robert Fleming on a package that is worth a reputed £6 million over five years. Patrick O'Sullivan quit as chief operating officer in July to take the helm at Eagle Star, the insurance group. Other defectors include Khalid Rahim, who resigned as managing director of corporate finance in August.

There has been no end to the solutions put forward on BZW's behalf. NatWest Markets, the troubled securities arm of the NatWest banking group, was at one stage put forward as a possible merger candidate, but traditional rivalries between the two made for an improbable match. A flotation of the business has also been put forward as a possible option.

BZW is the least profitable division of Barclays, seeing pre-tax profits slump 29 per cent last year to £204 million. Much of the decline stemmed from a large rise in costs linked to a wave of expensive hirings. These added £45 million to the wages bill. In August, it was disclosed that a £20 million loss in equities derivatives trading had taken its toll of half-year profits at the firm. Operating income fell £24 million to £124 million, prompting a fresh wave of speculation.

BZW's reputation suffered a blow earlier this year, when the firm was formally criticised by the Takover Panel over its conduct during the £782 million bid for Northern Electric. Simon de Zoete, the BZW vice chairman who led the Northern defence, was not present at a Panel meeting during which BZW was accused of being selective in its disclosure.

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Booking in: Ian Martin, the chairman of Unigate, stands to be installed as deputy chairman of WH Smith if Tim Waterstone's bid succeeds

Waterstone to continue with WH Smith bid

By Sarah Cunningham, retail correspondent

TIM WATERSTONE, founder of the Waterstone's bookstore chain, vowed yesterday to press on with his £1 billion bid to take over WH Smith, despite receiving a rebuff from the retail group's board.

It emerged yesterday that he is flanked in the SBC Warburg-backed bid by Ian Martin, chairman of Unigate. Mr Martin, who is also a veteran of Grand Metropolitan, would be installed as deputy chairman of the WH Smith group and eventually replace Jeremy Hardie as chairman. Mr Waterstone would be chief executive, while all the current WH Smith executives would be given the chance to stay.

Mr Waterstone's advisers were believed to be canvassing shareholder support for his bid. David Manning, of Foreign & Colonial, one of the top eight shareholders, said that he had not been approached but thought the bid "a bit underwhelming". However, he said that the proposals have put WH Smith "close to being in play" and the management "under a lot more pressure." Smith's shares ended 16p up at 381½p.

Mr Waterstone declined to say whether he would either take the bid hostile or improve the terms of his proposals. Analysts speculated that the initial proposal had been made to test the waters.

Mr Waterstone said the way his proposals had been presented by WH Smith had been unfair. For example, the group's valuation of Daisy & Tom, his new children's shop venture, at £35 million depends on valuing the new company shares at 270p, which he has not done. "They cannot do that and at the same time say we are not offering a premium," he said. The new shares would be offered to shareholders along with 200p for each WH Smith share.

He said that if he succeeds in his takeover, he would sell much of the group, concentrating on WH Smith retail, Waterstone's, Daisy and Tom and the news distribution business.

Waterstone vision, page 29

BT and MCI chiefs aim to save merger

From Oliver August in New York

THE board of MCI was last night preparing a rescue plan to keep its $24 billion (£15 billion) merger with British Telecom on track after WorldCom's $30 billion offer. MCI directors will receive more than $130 million in bonuses on completion of the BT merger.

Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive and a non-executive at MCI, has consulted MCI executives in Washington in an attempt to outmanoeuvre WorldCom and save his own £500,000 completion bonus. MCI and BT declined to comment and offered no indication of when they will respond to the biggest takeover bid in corporate history.

MCI shares rose from $35 to $36 in New York indicating the increasing likelihood that MCI shareholders will accept WorldCom's $41-a-share takeover bid. WorldCom's share price rose 5 per cent, making the bid even more attractive and reducing the risk that a share price collapse would undermine the value of its stock swap offer.

BT shares also rose in London ending the day up 17½p at 459½p. Investors voiced relief that the dilutive deal is likely to fall through. The company is coming under pressure to return funds to shareholders in the form of a buyback or special dividend.

BT and MCI are believed to be considering offering WorldCom a large stake in Concert, their joint company, of which Sir Peter would be chief executive. The deal would be complicated, involving a renegotiation of the Concert agreement a second time after the 20 per cent price reduction secured by BT this summer. MCI shareholders would also get a cash payout to compensate them for losing the more lucrative WorldCom offer.

WorldCom has already told BT it could turn its 20 per cent stake in MCI into a 10 per cent stake in the enlarged WorldCom group. Sir Peter is said to view this as unacceptable even though he would get a seat on the WorldCom board.

The MCI directors' bonuses are said to be a key reason for their refusal to accept that WorldCom's offer is likely to win shareholder approval. Documents filed at the Securities and Exchange Commission show that Bert Roberts, MCI's chairman, will receive $85 million in cash and shares after Concert's completion. Gerry Taylor, chief executive, will get $44 million.

Both men have accepted so-called golden handcuffs, keeping them with the new company for three years. Their basic salaries will remain at $1 million and $700,000 respectively.

WorldCom, however, is not offering golden handcuffs.

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BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	5296.1	(-21.0)
Yield	3.08%	
FTSE All share	2477.29	(-6.10)
Nikkei	17456.04	(-387.12)
New York		
Dow Jones	8024.58	(+9.08)*
S&P Composite	958.00	(+2.59)*
Federal Funds	5$\frac{9}{16}$%*	(5$\frac{3}{4}$%)
Long Bond	101$\frac{[illegible]}{32}$*	(100[illegible])
Yield	6.29%*	(6.33%)
3-mth Interbank	7$\frac{1}{4}$%	(7$\frac{1}{4}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	120$\frac{[illegible]}{32}$	(120$\frac{[illegible]}{32}$)
New York:		
$	1.6135*	(1.6155)
London:		
$	1.6161	(1.6139)
DM	2.8559	(2.8645)
FFr	9.5947	(9.6217)
SFr	2.3450	(2.3570)
Yen	195.55	(195.09)
£ Index	100.5	(100.6)
London:		
DM	1.7730*	(1.7754)
FFr	5.9560*	(5.9630)
SFr	1.4557*	(1.4605)
Yen	121.84*	(120.93)
$ Index	105.0	(105.3)
Tokyo close Yen 120.87		
Brent 15-day (Dec)	$20.10	($19.85)
London close	$333.55	($337.45)

* denotes midday trading price

MAID secures offer for US rival

By Fraser Nelson

MAID, the database company founded by Dan Wagner, has become one of the world's largest on-line information groups after securing an audacious $420 million (£261 million) cash bid for Knight-Ridder Information, its US rival.

The takeover, which has been expected since the two companies entered exclusive negotiations last month, was secured after MAID outbid Reed Elsevier, its UK-listed rival, in a blind auction.

Dan Wagner, who will remain chief executive of the enlarged group, said that although KRI last turned in a half-time loss of £2.79 million both companies will make a profit by the end of next year.

He intends to find around £22 million of cost savings each year through shedding 300 jobs across Europe and the US, and rehousing all the main information centres into one main database in California.

Mr Wagner, who initially approached KRI with the intention of licensing his company's software searching tool to them, said: "The parent company admitted to us it was a bad time to sell, because they had invested a lot, but they needed the money. We have secured a very good price."

The two companies are to be renamed Dialog Group after the merger. MAID shares were suspended at 215p yesterday.

Knight-Ridder, KRI's parent, made the sale to finance its £1 billion acquisition of newspapers from Walt Disney.

Tempus, page 28

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BT may seek deal to save its global dream

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

BT may seek to strike a deal with the company that gazumped its bid for MCI in an effort to salvage its shattered global ambitions.

One option for BT, whose hopes to merge with MCI seem dashed by WorldCom's surprise bid of $30 billion (£18.5 billion), is to retain a stake in a new WorldCom/MCI and seek to build up its holding and influence. Such a stance may be difficult, especially after the taunt from WorldCom on Wednesday that, after MCI, it could look at buying BT. However, WorldCom has offered an olive branch to BT by suggesting a role in a WorldCom/MCI.

BT is not commenting on a prospective role with WorldCom, but the move would satisfy analysts looking for its commitment to a global strategy. BT's terse statement to the Stock Exchange on Wednesday and its refusal to be drawn on WorldCom's surprise move is seen by some observers as a sign that it is keeping its options open. BT told to the exchange: "We have received the material made public today and are considering the issues it raises."

BT has held talks with MCI since the bid was announced, but no BT staff are at the Washington headquarters. Last night Sir Peter Bonfield, the BT chief executive, whose reputation hangs on a successful conclusion to the MCI saga, faced questions over the company's future at the Labour conference in Brighton, where BT held a reception for MPs. He had flown back from the US, where he had met MCI staff on the day WorldCom's bid disrupted BT's $24 billion merger with MCI.

Analysts see four options for BT, which has long wanted a transatlantic alliance. The first would see BT keep its 20 per cent of MCI, which would become a 9 per cent WorldCom/MCI stake, and seek to expand its influence.

The second option would see BT casting around for new partners to pursue a global link-up. However; with few suitable candidates, this may not be a powerful strategy.

The third would envisage a fresh attempt at a link with Cable & Wireless, but this is unlikely to win favour with the competition authorities.

Lastly, BT could abandon its global hopes and go for the utility option, operating largely in the UK and returning value to shareholders.

Meanwhile, BT is to part company with the man who crafted its "It's good to talk" campaign. Stafford Taylor, its consumer division managing director, will leave at the end of the year.

TV documentary will highlight Treasury discord

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

GROWING disquiet about the centralisation of power in the hands of the Chancellor's group of special advisers at the Treasury is likely to be inflamed by a television documentary showing next week.

Tuesday's Scottish Television film, *We Are the Treasury*, shows the concern among civil servants about the dominant presence in particular of Ed Balls, Gordon Brown's economic adviser.

Sir Terence Burns, as Permanent Secretary the most senior Treasury civil servant, gives a sense of the culture shock that came with the new arrivals. "They have a set way of doing things. They are not always the same ways that we have . . .", he says.

Jill Rutter, who subsequently asked to move from her job as head of the Treasury press office, said: "There is a problem with so much being done informally between the Chancellor. Ed Balls and Charlie Whelan (Mr Brown's spin-doctor) and because so much is filtered through Ed.

"The most precious commodity in the Treasury at the moment is time with Ed and Ed spends a lot of time with the Chancellor. There are a lot of people who need him to communicate with them."

Diane Abbott, the Labour MP who recently lost her seat on the Treasury Select Committee, questioned the degree of power enjoyed by the special advisers. "Some of these advisers are suffering from hubris," she said.

Ms Abbott was responding to disquiet about the financial market fall-out from last Friday's report in the *Financial Times* on EMU policy, widely thought to have been inspired by briefings from the Chancellor's team. She said: "With a new government, you have new ministers and also new advisers who haven't learned that careless talk costs lives."

The film tracks the dramatic events of the first weeks of Mr Brown's tenure, including the decision to give the Bank control over interest rates and to strip it of its supervisory powers. The latter clearly threw up differences of opinion between the Chancellor's team and Treasury officials.

Sir Terry said that he was nervous about the supervisory decision coming so quickly after the independence announcement and said that he understood the angry reaction of Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. "It was a very big thing for him and he did not have very much time to think through the implications before the announcement was made. I was not surprised at his reaction," Sir Terry said.

☐ *We Are the Treasury*: ITV, 10.40pm on October 7.

C&W launches first long-distance price cap

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

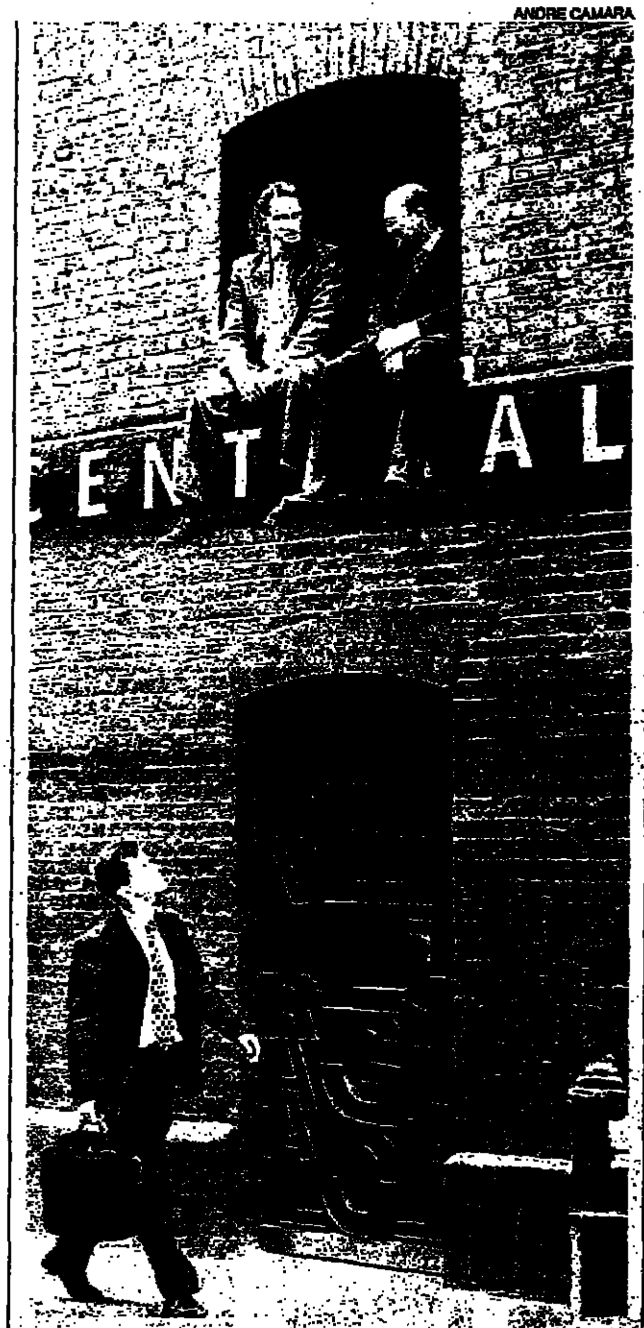
THE first price cap on long-distance phone calls was launched yesterday by Cable & Wireless with an offer for customers to spend as long as they want on the phone and pay only 50p.

C&W is offering the rate for long-distance calls on Saturdays until the end of the year. The cap follows a similar marketing move by New Zealand Telecom, which lifted the number of calls by 60 per cent.

Adrian Chamberlain, managing director of the consumer division at C&W Communications, said: "We have introduced the 50p price cap so that customers can enjoy using the phone and not worry about how long the call is. Saturday seemed an ideal day to choose as people have more time to relax."

C&W said it provided a 30-minute call for 50p, compared with 98p for BT.

ANDRE CAMARA



Higher return: Andrew Wilson, chief executive of Rugby Estates, sitting left, and Stephen Jones, finance director, raised net assets by 11 per cent to 170p a share. Pre-tax profits rose to £1.07 million (£1.06 million) and earnings per share went up 8 per cent to 4.03p. The half-year dividend rises 5 per cent to 0.84p and the shares rose 1p to 162½p.

Hyder cuts 350 jobs as operations are united

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

HYDER is to axe 350 jobs, taking the total lost in the Welsh multi-utility company to 1,250 since its formation through the merger of Welsh Water and Swalec nearly two years ago.

Hyder expects to make savings of £15 million a year over the next three years by combining day-to-day operations in water, gas and electricity.

Managerial jobs may go, as well as administrative posts, as Hyder puts its utility operations under a single management team. John Roberts, chief executive of Swalec, will head the utility operation, supported by Mike Brooker, chief executive of Welsh Water.

Hyder said that the streamlining would improve the competitive position of its utility businesses in both regulated and newly liberalised markets. Graham Hawker, group chief executive, said: "These changes represent a natural and logical next step in implementing our strategy. We have made excellent progress in recent years."

Hyder shares rose by 30½p, to 949p, their highest since the company's formation.

An immediate casualty of the shake-up is Stuart Doughty, chief executive of the engineering consultancy business, who left yesterday with no job to go. The position held by the 52-year-old director will not exist in the new structure. Hyder [illegible] consultancy. It would not comment on severance. Mr Doughty was on a one-year, £160,000 contract.

Barclays faces new dispute over pay

BARCLAYS BANK will meet union leaders today to discuss a dispute over a new performance-related pay structure. Earlier this week Unifi and Bifu, the unions, received a narrow mandate for strike action after a ballot of the 40,000 Barclays staff they represent. Barclays said the bank was not prepared to reopen negotiations on the fundamental principles behind the new structure.

Walkouts would probably affect Barclays' branches, possibly in the form of two-day or three-day actions. Two months ago the unions held a three-week overtime ban to protest against a new performance-related pay scheme, which they say could impose a pay freeze on 25,000 staff.

Ford pay offer rejected

UNION LEADERS representing 20,000 Ford car workers have rejected an "insulting" pay offer worth 5.5 per cent over the next two years. During talks in London, Ford offered a rise of 2.75 per cent over the next year and another increase of 2.75 per cent the following year. The company also offered minor improvements on pensions. Tony Woodley, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "The offer has been firmly rejected." Further talks will be held next month.

Martin back in black

MARTIN INTERNATIONAL, a supplier of clothing to Marks & Spencer and others, has returned to the black at the halfway stage with a pre-tax profit of £395,000 compared with a £453,000 loss this time last year. Earnings were 0.5p (1.8p loss) per share and will all be paid out in an interim dividend of 0.5p (0.45p) on January 2. Michael Kidd, chairman, said there had been a substantial growth in sales to principal customers and that orders for next year were at a high level.

BTR wins $70m contract

SHARES in BTR fell 7p to 243p yesterday even though BTR said that it had been awarded the contract for both the complete platform-sealing system and the engine-mount system for a new General Motors model to be launched in the next century, in a deal worth $70 million (£43 million). BTR said the contract involved more than one million vehicles a year, which will be manufactured by GM in different locations worldwide.

Polypipe spending £20m

POLYPIPE, the building materials group, said that it expects capital expenditure amounting to £20 million in the current year. Kevin McDonald told shareholders at the annual meeting: "The first quarter has started well and we continue to remain confident of another successful year ahead." He added: "The group's balance sheet remains strong with net cash to enable us to respond quickly to an increase in volume demand." The shares remained unchanged at 215½p.

Streamline lands deals

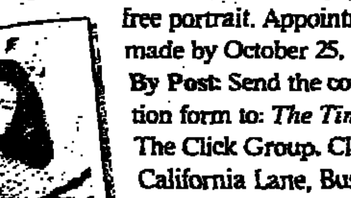
STREAMLINE HOLDINGS has been awarded two contracts worth just under £1 million to manufacture and supply 62 variable motorway message signs for use on the M40 and A1(M). The first contract is to supply 22 variable road signs for the M40 between junctions 1a and 3 where Tarmac and John Laing are widening the motorway. The second is for 40 variable message signs for the A1(M) between Alconbury and Peterborough. The shares were unchanged at 178½p.

▸ REWARDING TIMES ◂

A FREE portrait worth £50

- Enjoy a lasting memento
- 110 studios available in the UK
- Ideal gift for your family or friends

This week *The Times* offers you the chance to have a FREE professional sitting and portrait worth £50. The offer, in association with the Click Group of photographic studios, gives you and your family a large professional print of your favourite shot taken at the sitting in a choice of black and white, sepia or colour. You can have a portrait of a single family member, of you and your partner, or the whole family. You can also take up the offer and give it to friends as a gift. The offer is available for sittings before January 1, 1998.



There are 110 studios throughout the UK in the Click Group, each with its own highly-regarded professional portrait photographer who must qualify to become a member of the group. Established only four years ago, the Click Group has already established a reputation for quality portraits and now has a waiting list of 120 studios wishing to join.

HOW TO APPLY

By Phone: Call **0990 334 000** for your nearest Click Group studio. Lines are open 24 hours a day. Take four differently numbered tokens and the application form to your sitting to validate your free portrait. Appointments must be made by October 25, 1997.

By Post: Send the completed application form to: *The Times* Portrait Offer, The Click Group, Click House, California Lane, Bushey Heath, Herts WD2 1EZ before October 18, 1997. You will be contacted before October 25 to arrange your sitting. Another application form will be published tomorrow.

A £15 fully refundable booking deposit will be requested at the time of booking. Cancellations must be made within 24 hours of your sitting. No cash alternative for this offer is available.

FREE PORTRAIT

THE TIMES

Boeing's jet shake-up

BOEING is likely to abandon futher development of the MD80/90 narrow-bodied jets made by McDonnell Douglas, the US aircraft group it merged with earlier this year (Adam Jones writes).

Boeing is likely to announce the fate of McDonnell Douglas's full range of commercial jets around November 1. The single-aisle MD80/90s compete with the Boeing 737 and Airbus 320.

Bruce Dennis, a Boeing vice-president, said they were not competitive. He said: "Further development seems unlikely." This does not necessarily mean that existing models will no longer be produced.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.32	2.15	Malta	0.665	0.606
Austria Sch	21.11	19.45	Netherlds Gld	3.408	3.113
Belgium Fr	62.15	57.19	New Zealand $	2.67	2.43
Canada $	2.346	2.158	Norway Kr	12.09	11.15
Cyprus Cyp£	0.887	0.864	Portugal Esc	303.53	281.50
Denmark Kr	11.46	10.57	S Africa Rd	8.25	7.29
Finland Mkk	9.11	8.36	Spain Pta	252.79	234.00
France Fr	10.0	9.29	Sweden Kr	13.05	11.95
Germany Dm	3.01	2.77	Switzerland Fr	2.50	2.28
Greece Dr	477	438	Turkey Lira	291548	271670
Hong Kong $	13.32	12.12	USA $	1.721	1.578
Iceland	128	108			
Ireland Pt	1.16	1.07			
Israel Shk	5.97	5.32			
Italy Lira	2977	2740			
Japan Yen	210.33	192.80			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

No 004675 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF HAMPTON TRUST PLC
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 15 September 1997 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the Company [illegible]

Dated 30 September 1997
Garretts
Bank House
9 Charlotte Street
Manchester
M1 4EU
Tel: 0161 228 0707
Fax: 0161 228 1926
Ref: TGH/JB
Solicitors for the above named Company

[illegible]

WESTMINSTER INTERNATIONAL (UK) LIMITED
(Registered in England No 2974477)

[illegible]

[illegible]

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

[illegible]

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An advance on the tax front

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

The intricacies of advance corporation tax and foreign income dividends can bring on a migraine for the most clued up finance director so it is not entirely surprising if a novice Government finds itself a touch befuddled by such fiscal niceties.

But the reforming regime that came to power in May did not allow an apparent lack of clarity on the subject to prevent it from advocating change. In his first Budget, the Chancellor announced that he intended to abolish the foreign income dividend scheme.

He *cannot have* imagined the indignant response that would ensue. Major companies such as Rio Tinto and SmithKline Beecham announced that they would have no choice but to pack their bags and leave their UK bases, taking their London stock exchange listings with them.

Their protests were not wasted. The new Government has been at pains to emphasise *its business friendly* credentials and has been rewarded with a reception unpredictably enthusiastic for a Labour administration. It would hardly wish to jeopardise that happy situation by precipitating an exodus of big corporate names.

So what had been announced as firm policy was rapidly watered down into a period of consultation. Now, rather more enlightened on the subject of FIDS and ACT, it seems that the Government may have come to the indupitably sensible idea of sweeping away the lot.

This is the sort of modernising of which we should all approve, even Ken Livingstone. The British corporate tax system has been geared to producing ample employment for accountants rather than merely filling the public coffers in the most straightforward manner. Abolishing advance corporation tax effectively rules out the need for special treatment for foreign income dividends and would therefore be enough to appease those companies which earn much of their income overseas who were so upset by the Budget bombshell.

The City has convinced itself that rumours of the move are true and that the proposals will be made in Gordon Brown's green Budget next month. The joy of a green Budget is that, unlike his last effort, there will be ample time for consultation before initiatives are in danger of hurtling towards the statute books.

A streamlining of corporation tax would meet with wide approval, and the cost of abolishing ACT could be largely recompensed by demanding quarterly payment of corporation tax. This could place an extra administrative burden on firms, particularly if it were to be accompanied by a requirement for quarterly reporting of results, as is the norm in the United States.

There would, as ever, be some companies that stand to gain more than others from the changes. Smaller firms would tend to dominate the losers. And, in a delicious twist to the tale, the privatised water companies would be able to count themselves winners, a suitable quid pro quo for the windfall tax.

Hanging on for the regulators

The competition authorities have only to take a look at the $30 billion price tag being attached to WorldCom's bid for MCI to know that this is one with which the regulators can have a field day. Never mind that they may eventually decide that there is sufficient competition in the telecoms market for them to allow the deal to proceed, in the meantime they have the power to put the whole idea on hold for anything up to a year.

This is the prospect which must be causing some agony for BT's board. For there is nothing more difficult for a business to contend with than uncertainty. The official line from BT is that it is weighing up its options, but those options now depend very heavily on the US regulators. And while the regulators ponder, much could happen, including a heavy deterioration in the value of WorldCom's offer.

To say that WorldCom stock is highly rated is to fail to do justice to the fervour which Bernard Ebbers has succeeded in generating around his shares. He has excited Wall Street into valuing his shares at 40 times earnings, the sort of level that might be accorded to a bio-tech stock which could strike a fortune-making discovery — or could vanish into the netherworld inhabited by a raft of such companies which were built on hope.

WorldCom has progressed beyond hope to acquire a profits stream, but only just. Adding MCI to its voracious list of takeovers would make sense, bringing synergy and cost savings not available to BT. But, with the prospect of being beaten by WorldCom in the equation, BT's share price has already strengthened, adding to the value of its offer. It is not impossible that, as the regulators plough through their inquiries the two offers could come more in line.

That would give BT more leverage should it want to retain an involvement in Concert, its existing link with MCI. What is not yet clear is what would be BT's preferred solution to the tangle that has emerged in the US. The instant reaction of the City was that it should take the speediest route out of the entanglement but, given the enthusiasm Sir Peter Bonfield had for the link, this may not be his choice.

If he were still keen on joining forces with MCI, he could do worse that indulge in a little spin-doctoring against the sky high WorldCom price. Throw in fears over the regulatory hurdles ahead, and the game may not be over.

Blood still flowing at United Utilities

Talk of yet more heads rolling in United Utilities is a worrying sign that Sir Desmond Pitcher still wields the cosh, in spite of a sword hanging over his own head.

The hasty exit of John Tetlow, the company secretary, has been attributed to health grounds. But insiders, surprised at the quick departure, believe that Sir Desmond has exerted his influence again. Mr Tetlow, it is thought, worked too closely with Brian Staples, the axed chief executive, for his own survival.

Blood-spilling is endemic at United Utilities. It was the sacking of Mr Staples that quickened the institutional calls for an end to Sir Desmond. Investors, uneasy at the autocratic style of a man who had already seen off one chief executive, demanded that Sir Desmond gave up the reins of executive chairman earlier than his *planned retirement* date of 2000.

United Utilities staff may hope that the date is brought forward early enough to guard against further axe wielding.

All is expected to be revealed in the next few weeks after the completion of a review into the business and the search by headhunters for a new chairman. Advisers say that a shortlist is emerging.

No doubt the recruitment consultants will have placed diplomacy and delegation high on their list of requirements. For whoever succeeds Sir Desmond, when he chooses to go, will need to do much repairing of morale at the multi-utility in the North West.

Bank notes

INVESTMENT banking needs big pockets and brave hearts. Martin Taylor's decision that Barclays could not play the game alone only serves to highlight the difficulties facing another British high street bank that thought it could join the big league. Pressure on NatWest can only increase as a result of today's news. Selling off bits and pieces will not be enough to assuage the critics who believe that NatWest should leave investment banking well alone.

United lifts mis-selling cover by £79m

By Gavin Lumsden

UNITED ASSURANCE has more than doubled provisions for clearing its pensions mis-selling backlog to £150 million in a desperate attempt to meet the deadlines set by the Personal Investment Authority.

With just four weeks to go before its deadline for completing priority cases, George Mack, group chief executive, said only half of the 3,300 people involved had been offered compensation. He said United had "a mountain to climb" to meet the PIA target but would be working hard to do so.

United risks a large fine from the PIA if it misses the deadline. This week the regulator imposed a £450,000 penalty on Friends Provident for failing to meet a similar deadline in March. Any delay will also threaten a second PIA deadline at the end of April.

Mr Mack blamed United's lack of progress on the difficulty of getting information from clients as well as state and occupational pension funds. He said the £79 million increase in provisions, which includes an exceptional charge of £68.4 million to shareholders, would be used to fund guaranteed schemes and make unconditional offers of reinstatement.

Guaranteed-type schemes have been offered by a number of insurers as a short cut to completing the pensions review. With these schemes companies promise policyholders will not suffer financially even if they are not reinstated in a company or state pension.

United also said it was setting up a new management services company to pass on an estimated £37 million in annual cost savings from the £1.46 billion merger between United Friendly and Refuge last year. It also revealed the sale of its loss-making Financial Planning arm to Friends Provident. Pretax profits on continuing activities, before exceptionals, in the first half of the year leapt to £158 million (£86 million). There is an interim dividend of 7p, up 30 per cent, and a final payment for the year of 14p (12.6p) is forecast.

Scottish Telecoms 'float' talk

By Christine Buckley

SPECULATION that ScottishPower could float off its telecoms division, ScottishTelecom, was reignited yesterday when the company briefed City analysts on prospects for the business.

ScottishPower compared its telecoms arm with a range of similar businesses, including Energis, the National Grid's operation, which is to be floated. It is thought that ScottishTelecom could be worth £700 million as an independent entity.

The operation, which broke even in the last financial year, will make £4 million profit this year, according to Rod Matthews, its chief executive. This is based on sales of £110 million, which have more than doubled from £54 million the previous year. Mr Matthews told analysts that Scottish Telecom, launched three years ago, was aiming for 10 per cent of Scotland's £2 billion telecoms market by 2000, double its current share.

T&N silent on £1.23bn Federal bid

By George Sivell

A BOARD meeting at T&N, the car components group, broke up yesterday with no word on how the directors viewed the £1.23 billion bid from Federal-Mogul of Michigan launched last Friday.

No announcement is imminent. Sir Colin Hope, T&N chairman, and the board are talking to Federal-Mogul, whose bid team remains in London, and other companies who expressed an interest in T&N during the summer.

Analysts believe that Federal-Mogul is in pole position, however, because of the detailed talks already held with T&N during July. But it would appear that the four big shareholders that control more than 50 per cent of T&N are holding out for much higher terms than Federal-Mogul's 235p a share indicated offer.

Yesterday T&N shares rose 3p to 249½p against the 270p or so at which the big four would appear to begin to think about accepting.

English & Overseas puts £5.6m into Oriel

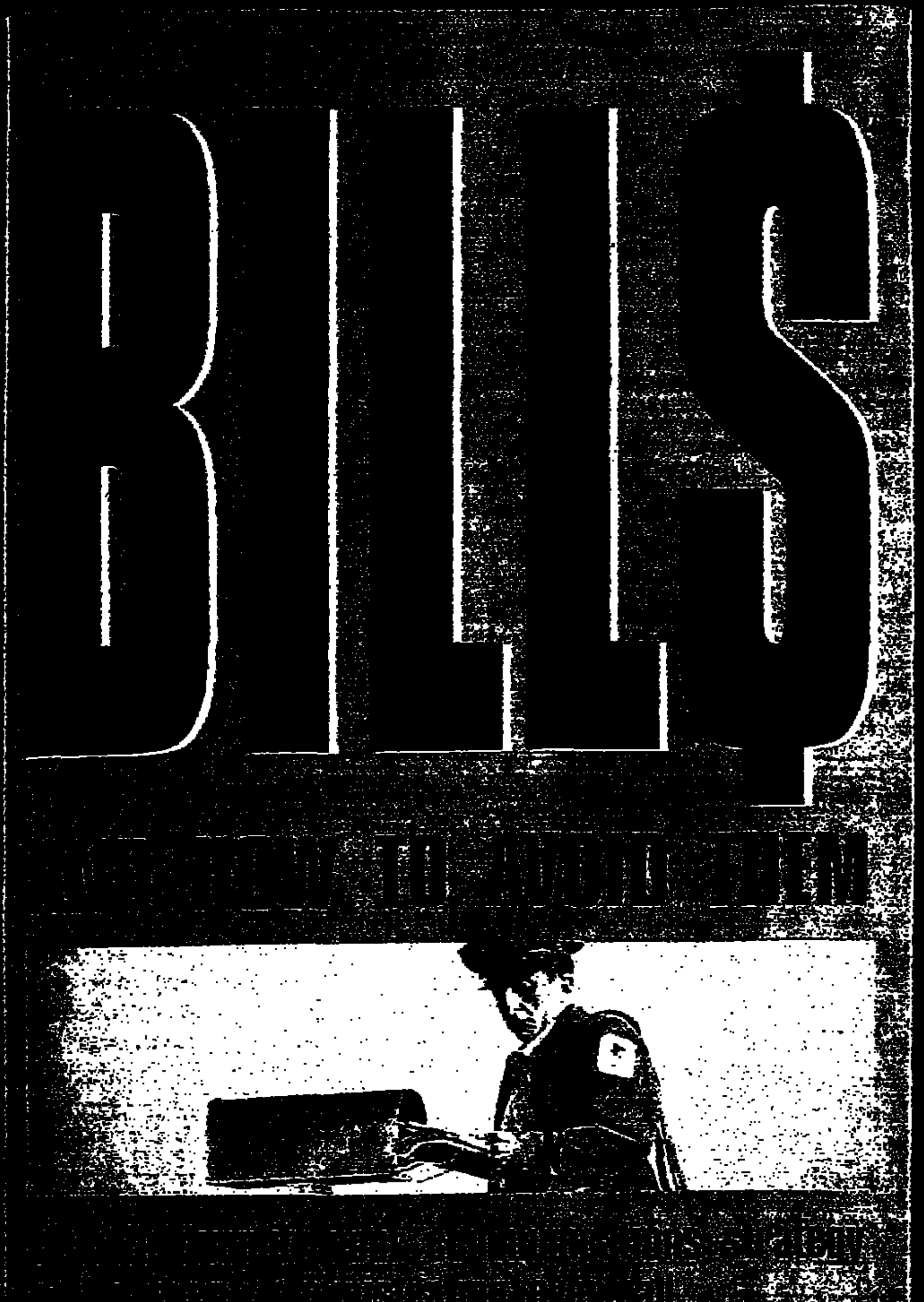
ENGLISH & Overseas Properties (E&OP), the property investment minnow, is branching out into hotels by investing £5.6 million in Oriel Leisure, an independent hotel management company (Dominic Walsh writes).

Oriel, founded in 1991 to run distressed hotel assets for banks and receivers, will use the money to start development of a chain of budget Holiday Inn Express hotels under a franchise deal with Bass.

E&OP's investment will take the form of a mix of ordinary and convertible preference shares that will give control to E&OP on conversion. Jim Clark, E&OP's chief executive, said that its "ideal scenario" would be a flotation of Oriel in four to five years' time.

On top of the £5.6 million, Tito Tettamanti, chairman of E&OP and a former Holiday Inn franchisee, has personally committed £4.5 million. With bank borrowings, Oriel expects to be able to assemble a war chest of £25 million.

Oriel has contracted to develop between 15 and 20 hotels, mostly alongside pubs, at about £3.5 million each.



"Tim Flanders had his eye on the big picture. By moving all his organisation's phones over to Orange he'd get 50 phones on a single Talk Plan and one bill instead of 50. He'd capitalise on the big monthly savings that pooling 5000 inclusive minutes would achieve. And with Orange international calls from the UK costing 20% less than BT's standard rates, the cash would be rolling in. Nobody need ever know that he sorted it all out in his lunch hour by calling Orange."

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Barclays rides high on BZW deal speculation

A MEETING of all BZW staff has been called for 7.30am today at which they have been told to expect an announcement from the investment bank arm of **Barclays**. A number of BZW staff have been recalled from holiday.

There was no stopping Barclays Bank, with the price briefly touching an all-time high of £18 before reducing its lead to 25½p at £17.47. Once again there has been talk that Barclays may be close to unloading its BZW investment banking arm or joint venturing it with a major partner.

Word in the City suggests that the buyer or partner is either Commerzbank, the German banking group, or Credit Suisse First Boston, the joint American-Swiss bank. Earlier in the week ING, the Dutch bank, *which bailed out* Barings after heavy losses on the futures market in the Far East, was being tipped as a potential suitor. Other buyers mentioned in the past included ABN Amro and Banque Bruxelles Lambert.

NatWest Bank, which is thought to be looking for a buyer for its own investment banking arm, also rose, by 33½p to 986p. The other banks closed mixed after another strong performance this week. **Bank of Scotland** rose 16p to 522½p, but there were setbacks for **HSBC**, off 39p to £22.02½, **Abbey National**, down 13p to 963p, **Lloyds TSB**, 30p lower at 820½p, **Standard Chartered**, 10p lighter at 836½p, and **Royal Bank of Scotland**, down 24p to 672½p.

Newcomer **Northern Rock** continued to make headway with a rise of 13p at 476p.

Share prices generally continued to test new ground in early trading, supported by another positive performance overnight on Wall Street.

Suggestions that the Government was set to scrap advanced corporation tax (ACT) breathed fresh life into leading shares and pushed the FTSE 100 index to another all-time high of 5,367.3. That was the signal for the profit-takers to move in and, with New York opening a touch easier last night, dealers in London saw those early gains reversed. The index finished 21.0 down at 5,296.1, having kept up a cracking pace for much of the week. By contrast the FTSE 250 index, which has been travelling at a far more sedate pace, closed 21.9 higher at 4,861.3. Total turnover was 900 *million shares*.

Dan Wagner, of Maid, left, and Jeff Galt, of Knight-Ridder

Leading shares expected to benefit from the scrapping of ACT were pushed to the fore in early trading. Among those expected to benefit from lower tax bills are **Reuters**, up 25½p at 753p, **Unigate**, 10½p better at 581½p, and **BAT Industries**, 13p dearer at 567½p.

British Telecom rose 17½p to 459½p as it continued to ponder the surprise $30 billion *counterbid* for MCI from WorldCom. Institutional investors are looking forward to the prospect of BT returning capital to shareholders in special dividends or share buybacks. A further 50 million shares changed hands.

Traders were puzzled by the sudden fall in **Glaxo Wellcome**, down 28½p at £13.71, after briefly hitting £14.08½p. As one trader commented: "Every time it hits £14, the sellers suddenly materialise".

It has been quite a week for troubled **WH Smith**. First, it rejected a cheeky bid from Tim Waterstone, founder of its own Waterstone's book chain, and then yesterday it became the subject of a rare "buy" recommendation from ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker. The shares ended at 381½p, still way below the its peak of 483p for the year.

Asda slipped another 3¼p to 154¼p after admitting that merger talks with rival **Safeway**, 11p lower at 382p, have been aborted. **Tesco** was also a dull market yesterday, losing 6½p to 451½p.

Shares of **Maid**, the online information service group, were suspended at 215p after confirming plans to buy Knight-Ridder Information for £260 million. The shares will remain frozen until the deal is approved by shareholders next month. The deal, put together by Dan Wagner, chief executive of Maid, and Jeff Galt, president of Knight-Ridder Information, will make Maid the world's biggest supplier of online information. The shares are expected to return at around the 325p level.

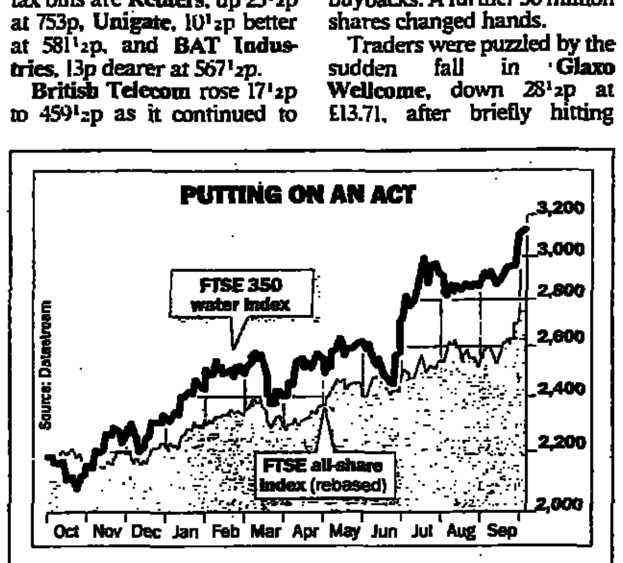
After struggling for two years on AIM to find its feet, things are looking up for **Euro Sales Finance**. The price jumped 20p to 175p, stretching the two-week lead to 50p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices closed off their best levels as the profit-takers moved in, capitalising on this week's rally. Dealers said that longer dated yields were continuing to fall, faced with mounting speculation about the timing of British entry into a single currency.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt touched £120⅝, matching its all-time high, before retreating to end the day £3/16 better at £120¹⁵⁄₃₂. The total number of contracts completed reached 100,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on nine ticks at £116²³⁄₃₂, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was unchanged at £103²¹⁄₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Blue chips remained weaker and drifting, due partly to the *Jewish* new year and the wait for September's payroll figures out today. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 9.08 ahead at 8,024.58.



THE water companies were marked higher with brokers expecting them to be big beneficiaries of any move to scrap advance corporation tax.

Anglian Water rose 7½p to 834p, South West Water 10½p to 901½p, Thames 12½p to 896½p, United Utilities 13½p to 780p and Yorkshire 10p to 491½p.

Nigel Hawkins at Yamaichi, the broker, said: "Such a move would be *bullish for the whole water* sector. But the benefits are likely to be short term because Ian Byatt, the industry regulator, would take the tax benefits into account when the next round of pricing falls due in March 2000."

He pointed out that South West last year made profits of £133 million and paid tax of £14 million, of which ACT made up £9 million. Without the high level of capital allowances the tax burden would have been nearer £44 million.

"If they do abolish ACT the overall tax wedge becomes smaller. *But I would* expect the regulator to take this into account during the next round of price rises," Mr Hawkins said.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 8024.58 (+9.08)
S&P Composite .... 958.00 (+2.59)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 17455.04 (-387.12)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... Closed

Amsterdam:
EOE Index .... 940.26 (-3.59)

Sydney:
AO .... 2778.9 (-0.3)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 4273.71 (+76.73)

Singapore:
Straits .... 1927.60 (-14.14)

Brussels:
General .... 13920.37 (+46.71)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 3052.07 (-2.86)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 1226.60 (+15.00)

London:
FT 30 .... 3379.6 (-15.5)
FTSE 100 .... 5296.1 (-21.0)
FTSE 250 .... 4861.3 (+21.9)
FTSE 350 .... 2539.6 (-6.0)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 .... 2761.92 (+43.76)
FTSE All-Share .... 2477.29 (-5.10)
FTSE Non Financials .... 2472.76 (-3.01)
FTSE Fixed Interest .... 131.58 (+0.55)
FTSE Govt Secs .... 101.00 (+0.33)
Bargains 61596
SEAQ Volume 900.2m
US$ .... 1.6161 (+0.0035)
German Mark .... 2.8547 (-0.0086)
Exchange Index .... 100.5 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.4514
£:SDR 1.1811
RPI .... 158.5 Aug (3.5%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 157.1 Aug (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aggreko	178½	+ 7
Antofagasta Cv Uts	412½	...
Aram Resources	102	...
Bristol & West Prf	118¼	+ ¼
Cammell Laird	155½	...
Computerland UK	146	...
GR Holdings	52½	...
Helicon Pubslg	91½	...
I S Solutions	136½	+ 1
Kingfisher Leisure	185	...
Northern Rock	476	+ 13
Science Systems	150½	...
Severn Trent B	31	− ½
Stentor Warrants	49	+ ½
Thorn B	20	...
Viglen Technology	86	+ 7

RIGHTS ISSUES

Gearhouse n/p (250)	121½	...
John Lusty n/p (8)	¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Tunstall .... 91p (+14½p)
Pascoe's .... 69p (+10½p)
Fired Earth .... 311p (+21p)
Chiroscience .... 287½p (+14p)
Bostrom .... 310p (+15p)
Abbey .... 215p (+10p)
WH Smith .... 381½p (+16p)
Wm Sinclair .... 265½p (+11p)
Shield Diag .... 730p (+30p)
Nat West .... 986p (+33½p)
Reuters .... 753p (+25½p)
Johnston .... 312½p (+10p)
Slough Estates .... 347½p (+11p)

FALLS:
Biocomps Intl .... 585p (-42½p)
Six Hundred .... 139p (-8½p)
United Assurance .... 491½p (-22p)
Rolls-Royce .... 243p (-10½p)
Lloyds TSB .... 820½p (-30p)
Royal Bank Scot .... 672½p (-24p)
Blue Circle .... 383p (-12p)
Safeway .... 382p (-11p)
BAA .... 581½p (-16½p)
GKN .... 1353p (-38p)
Kwik Save .... 335p (-8½p)
Reed Int .... 525p (-10½p)

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS

Information overload

ALTHOUGH Dan Wagner seems to claim another "killer deal" for Maid every other month, it is hard to ignore the significance of the latest move by his online information company. By pulling off an audacious bid for the much larger Knight Ridder Information, the 34-year-old has once again won a standing ovation from his growing fan club in the City, and will soon be sitting on top of a £300 million company.

But at what cost? To become a global player in the online information market, Maid has agreed to take on £170 million of debt and will pay £16 million a year for the privilege. For a developing company, this is a courageous step.

A glance at KRI's figures gives clues to why the likes of Reuters and Reed did not feel so tempted. KRI's profits have been steadily falling for the past four years, and it is now incurring a loss. Yet Mr Wagner remains convinced he has snapped up a bargain. He plans to create one almighty database to serve all 200,000 customers, merge overseas offices, sack surplus staff and — hey presto — produce £22 million of annual cost savings.

It is true that Maid is in a fast-moving industry where it is impossible to get to the top without taking risks. Nonetheless, his hunger for KRI's "content" — its exclusive data sources — raises important questions about Maid's strategy and the validity of its past claims.

Mr Wagner's admirers believe that the deal will prove its worth from as early as next year. When Maid's shares return from suspension, they look set to move ahead smartly. Wiser heads will stand aside from the rush.

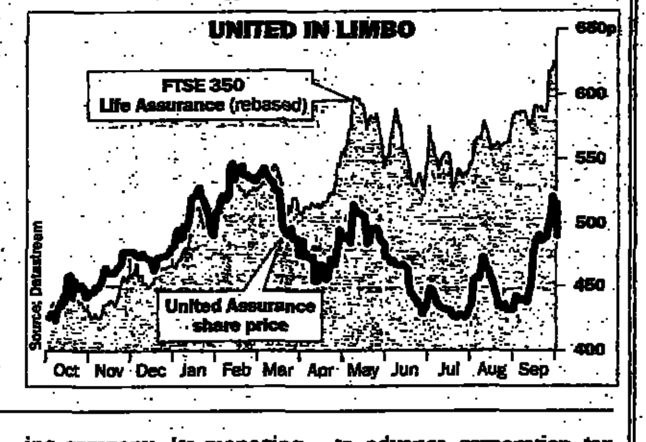
United Assur.

A year on from the merger of United Friendly and Refuge Assurance, *the integration* work drags on. The need to form a management company to allow policyholders to share in the merger savings has complicated the process, but United's management is also struggling to clear up its part in the personal pension mis-selling scandal. The total provision for this mess has now more than doubled to £150 million.

United still has to close another 165 branches and to weed out another 1,300 from its sales fieldforce. On past experience, the disruption and likely damage to morale will hold back sales. Recent new business figures showed the company is already missing out on the revival in the life insurance market.

The rationale for the merger was that United will be a powerful force in the dull but still large market for "home service" insurance, more or less *abandoned by the likes* of Prudential. United's own attempt to move upmarket with the financial planning business it bought from American Express in 1993 was an ignominious failure. Before it was sold, this ran up a final loss of £11.9 million, after £13.7 million last year.

A merger of the group's two life funds could give United excess capital to give back to shareholders next year. In the meantime, the shares' main attraction is dividends forecast to rise to 21p this year — a yield of more than 5 per cent.



Clubhaus

EUROPE'S victory in the Ryder Cup last weekend can only be good news for Clubhaus as it seeks to consolidate as one of Europe's leading golf course operators.

Since its demerger from Ex-Lands last year, the company has expanded rapidly, adding another seven clubs in the first half. The economies of scale are starting to show through in improved margins on food and beverage sales and in the pro shop.

Unfortunately, Clubhaus's *deals have not always been a* model of clarity. This is partly because of the demerger and the interesting cast of characters involved, including a German baron and IMG's Mark McCormack. However, it does give pause for thought.

Yesterday's acquisition of Germany's Nippenburg Golf Club is a case in point. Clubhaus said only that it was buying the club's holding company. Its managing director talked vaguely of paying "a nominal sum", and glossed over details such as the DM6 million of debts in the operating subsidiary and the 75 per cent interest owned jointly by Mr McCormack's IMG and PGA European Tour Courses.

Clubhaus has sensible plans to add health and leisure facilities to several of the company's 15 golf clubs — possibly drawing on the expertise of David Lloyd, who is a non-executive director.

The shares have slipped to 81½p from their peak of 99½p *earlier this year*. A less opaque approach would help build confidence in Clubhaus's prospects.

Hyder

HYDER'S fortunes have improved considerably since the *company found itself hammered* by the windfall tax.

Yesterday the company had double reason to feel cheery: the prospect of an end to advance corporation tax further cost savings from the continuing fusion of its two main businesses.

Hyder is delivering an extra £15 million a year savings by combining the management of its water, electricity and gas businesses and merging their day to day operations. It is an efficiency over and above what it had expected to deliver and could signal further rationalisation.

The company's short-term prospects are encouraging and the management has been tenacious in squeezing out cost. Such cost savings *will not*, of course, continue in perpetuity and once Hyder is cut to the bone it will be left with two main regulated businesses and exposure to nascent competitive markets such as electricity and gas supply where margins are expected to be tight.

Dividend prospects for water utilities such as Hyder remain good, justifying investors hanging on to the shares.

BRITISH FUNDS

1997 High	1997 Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
101⅞	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	100		8.75	..
106¹⁹⁄₃₂	100½	Exch 15% 1997	100½	−⅛	14.93	6.62
115¼	113²⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 4⅝% 1998	115²⁵⁄₃₂		4.01	6.69
103¾	100¾	Exch 9¾% 1998	100¾		9.68	6.89
101⅝	100⁹⁄₃₂	Treas 7¼% 1998	100⁹⁄₃₂		7.24	6.98
110¼	104⅛	Treas 14% 1998-01	104⅛	−⅛	13.44	7.87
114¹⁹⁄₃₂	107¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 15½% 1998	107¹⁵⁄₃₂		14.36	7.07
109⅛	105⅞	Exch 12% 1998	105⅞		11.41	7.09
105⅝	102⅞	Treas 9½% 1999	102⅞	−⅛	9.23	7.07
111⅛	107⅝	Exch 12¼% 1999	107⅝	−⅛	11.43	7.02
108⅝	105¼	Treas 10½% 1999	105¼	−⅛	9.98	7.01
99⅛	96⅞	Treas 6% 1999	98⅝	−⅛	6.09	6.89
109⅞	106¼	Conv 10¼% 1999	106⅜	−⅛	9.63	7.01
106½	104¼	Conv 9% 2000	104⅝	−⅛	8.60	6.98
104⅞	102⅛	Treas 8% 2000	103⅝		7.72	6.89
104⅝	102⅞	Treas 8½% 2000	103⅜	−⅛	8.22	6.93
119⅛	114⅞	Treas 13% 2000	115⅝	−⅛	11.28	6.84
112⅝	98⅝	Treas 10% 2001	109⅞		9.10	6.88
101⅝	98⅞	Treas 7% 2001	101⅝		6.89	6.89
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
102⅝	97⅝	Treas 7% 2002	102⅝	+⅛	6.84	6.39
122¼	109⅝	Treas 9¾% 2002	113⅝		8.60	6.49
107½	102⅝	Treas 8% 2003	107⅝		7.44	6.40
117⅞	111⅞	Treas 10% 2003	117⅞		8.53	6.45
116⅝	113¼	Treas 11½% 2001-04	114⅝	+⅛	10.03	6.71
90⅝	82⅝	Fund 3½% 1999-04	90⅝	+⅛	3.88	5.23
117⅝	109⅞	Conv 9½% 2004	117⅝		8.09	6.38
102⅝	94⅝	Treas 6¾% 2004	102⅝	+⅛	6.60	6.34
113⅝	104⅝	Treas 8½% 2005	113⅝	−⅛	7.49	6.36
122⅝	110⅝	Conv 9½% 2005	118⅛		8.03	6.38
130⅝	124⅝	Treas 12½% 2003-05	130⅝		9.61	6.45
107⅝	98⅝	Treas 7½% 2006	107⅝	+⅛	6.95	6.34
109⅝	99⅞	Treas 7¾% 2006	109⅝	+⅛	7.10	6.38
106	100⅝	Treas 8% 2002-06	105⅝xd	+⅛	7.55	6.59
123⅛	115⅝	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	123⅛	−⅛	9.54	6.48
115⅛	105⅝	Treas 8½% 2007	115⅛	+⅛	7.38	6.39
108⅝	98⅝	Treas 7¼% 2007	108⅝	+⅛	6.78	6.32
120⅝	108⅝	Treas 9% 2008	120⅝	+⅛	7.46	6.36
113⅝	101	Treas 8% 2009	113⅝	+⅛	7.06	6.37
98⅝	86¼	Treas 6¼% 2010	98⅝	+⅛	6.35	6.42
123⅝	109½	Conv 9% 2011	123⅝	+⅛	7.31	6.43
124⅝	109⅜	Treas 9% 2012	124⅝	+⅛	7.25	6.44
92⅝	80⅝	Treas 5½% 2008-12	92⅝	+⅛	5.94	6.39
111⅝	98⅝	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	111⅝	+⅛	6.95	6.50
LONGS (over 15 years)						
115⅝	100⅝	Treas 8% 2013	115⅝	+⅛	6.95	6.46
116⅝	101⅛	Treas 8% 2015	116⅝	+⅛	6.85	6.42
125⅝	103⅝	Treas 8¾% 2017	125⅝	+⅛	6.99	6.48
119⅝	101⅝	Tr 8% 2021	119⅝	+⅛	6.72	6.41
UNDATED						
53⅝	43⅝	War Ln 3½%	53⅝	+½	6.49	.
37½	30⅝	Treas 2½%	37½	+⅛	6.67	..
58⅝	49⅝	Consols 4%	57⅝	+⅛	6.93	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
192⅝	184⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2001	192⅝	+½	2.45	3.14
189¼	180⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2003	189¼	+½	2.69	3.17
122⅝	117⅝	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	122⅝	+½	2.75	3.17
201⅝	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	201⅝	+¼	2.89	3.22
182⅝	178⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2009	182⅝	+⅛	2.94	3.20
190⅝	176⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2011	190⅝	+⅛	3.00	3.22
157⅝	144⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2013	157⅝	+⅛	3.04	3.23
169⅝	153⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2016	169⅝	+⅛	3.07	3.25
163⅝	147⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2020	163⅝	+½	3.13	3.26
136¼	122⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2024	136¼	+⅛	3.14	3.27
133⅝	119⅝	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	133⅝	+⅛	3.14	3.27

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Puts Oct	Puts Jan	Puts Apr
ASDA	140	14½	19½	22½	½	3½	5
(*154)	160	1½	8	11	7½	11	13
Abbey Nat	950	26	75½	92	16½	50	64
(*956½)	1000	7½	51½	68½	47½	76½	90½
All&Lec	700	17	40½	58	8	23	35
(*706½)	750	2½	17½	34½	43½	51½	62½
Alld Dom	460	21	35	46	3	21	26
(*477½)	500	2	15½	27½	23½	43½	48
BAA	550	32½	50	64	1½	15½	20
(*579½)	600	3½	23½	37	23	38	42
BAT Ind	550	27	56½	66	9	27	38½
(*567½)	600	7½	34	42½	35½	54	65½
Barclays	1700	76½	186	195½	16½	79	99
(*1757½)	1800	23½	113½	143½	63	128	146
Bass	800	37	63½	79	4	22	37½
(*831½)	850	8	38½	53	25½	54½	62
Boots	850	50½	78	97½	2½	21	30½
(*895½)	900	15	49	69	18	40	52½
Br Airways	650	26½	52½	68	7	27	32
(*670½)	700	4	30	43	33	53	57
BP	900	40	74	93½	7	30½	40½
(*932½)	950	11½	47½	68½	27	53	63½
Br Steel	160	18	21	26½	½	3	7
(*177½)	180	3	9½	15½	6	11½	15½
C&W	550	21½	48	64	8	29	35
(*562½)	600	2½	27	41	39½	56	62
CU	800	24½	68½	84½	15	47	64
(*803½)	850	2	46	62½	48½	75	92
GlaxoW	1350	40	108	132	20	67½	87½
(*1365½)	1400	18	82½	105½	47	91½	105½
HSBC	2200	44½	171	227½	48½	134½	173½
(*2202½)	2300	11½	123½	179½	112	188	226½
Halifax	700	37½	65	78	2½	17	28
(*734)	750	6	36	50½	22	38	51
ICI	1000	33½	79	93	12	37	55
(*1020)	1050	10½	53	70½	38	62	80
Land Sec	950	51	77	97	2½	16	23½
(*997½)	1000	15	47	66½	13½	35½	44
M&S	600	52½	68	83	½	11	17
(*650½)	650	13½	39	53	11	28½	34½
Nat Pwr	550	22	46	59½	6	28½	30
(*566½)	600	2½	25½	36½	35	52½	56½
Nat West	950	44	90	107	8½	44½	55
(*983)	1000	16	63½	80½	31	68½	78
Reuters	750	17	55	66½	17	41½	56½
(*751½)	800	2½	32½	44	51	70	84
RylSun	550	42	68½	76½	2	18½	28½
(*589)	600	9	38½	48½	19½	40	51½
Safeway	360	28½	35	43	2	11	18½
(*382)	390	4	18	26	11½	24½	27
Sainsbury	420	31½	44	54	1½	9½	16
(*450)	460	5½	21	31	15	27	33½
Shell	450	29½	47	—	1½	13	—
(*476)	500	3½	30½	32½	29½	35	44
SmKl Bch	600	15½	40	58	13	34	43
(*601½)	625	8	34	48	28½	47½	58
Std Chrt	800	48½	85½	104	8½	38	52½
(*835½)	850	19	59	78	29½	51	73½
Thames W	850	51½	78	[illegible]	[illegible]	30½	38
(*896½)	900	18	48	64	19	41	48½
Vodafone	330	21½	35½	45	2	13½	17
(*348)	360	5	20½	29½	15½	28	31½
Woolwich	300	16	28½	35	1½	9	14½
(*313½)	330	2	13	20	17½	24	29½
Zeneca	2000	75½	158½	198	17	65	94½
(*2057½)	2100	23	106½	145½	63	112	140

	Series	Calls Nov	Calls Feb	Calls May	Puts Nov	Puts Feb	Puts May
BTR	240	12½	22	26½	9½	15½	21½
(*243)	260	5	13	18	21	26	33
Blue Circ	360	31	42	47	6½	10½	16
(*381½)	390	13½	25	30½	19½	23½	30
Br Aero	1600	122	169	197	18	40½	54
(*1692½)	1700	59	107½	138	55½	80	95½
Br Telcm	425	42½	50	—	8½	22½	—
(*455½)	465	21½	30	—	25	41	—
Cadbury	550	56½	71½	79	4	10	18½
(*597½)	600	23	41	49	19	28½	38½
Energy Gp	650	16	29	36½	10	18	21
(*652½)	700	1½	9	16	47½	51½	53
Gallaher	280	15½	23½	28½	9	13½	19
(*284½)	300	7½	14	19	20½	24	30
GEC	390	26	35½	48	9	17	20
(*405)	420	11	20½	32½	23	31½	34½
Grnd Met	550	43½	59½	71	8	19½	25½
(*582)	600	18	32	46	30½	44	50
Guinness	560	44	61	66	7	16½	21½
(*582)	600	18	33	38½	28½	38	44
Hanson	300	13	23½	29	10½	15½	21½
(*300½)	330	3	11	16	30½	33½	38
Imp Tob	360	18	23½	29½	8	19½	24
(*367)	390	5½	10½	16½	26	39	42½
Kingfshr	850	37½	66½	77	29½	43½	54½
(*852½)	900	16½	43½	54	59	71	82
Lasmo	260	16	24	31½	6½	10½	14
(*269½)	280	7	14½	21½	16½	21	24½
Ladbroke	260	22	31½	35½	5	9½	12½
(*276)	280	10½	21	25	13½	18	21½
Lucasvty	220	17	23½	28	5	8	12½
(*232½)	240	6	13	18½	13½	19	32
P&O	650	36	54½	69½	11	19	30
(*683½)	700	11½	28	33½	37	44	55
Prudentl	650	56½	79½	91	11½	22	31½
(*683)	700	25½	50½	64	30½	43	54
Rio Tinto	950	65	84	104	10½	21½	36
(*997½)	1000	33	63½	75½	27½	41	57½
Redland	220	18½	27½	31	4	8½	14
(*232½)	240	6	18½	22	15	18	25
R-Royce	240	12	22½	27	10	15	18½
(*243)	260	5½	14	18	22½	28½	29½
Tesco	420	37	49½	58	5	11	17
(*450)	460	11½	24	35	20½	27½	34½
Utd Bisc	200	12	18½	21	4	7	18½
(*204½)	220	3½	9½	12	16½	18	21½

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
BG PLC	260	17	23	29½	13½	18	21
(*263½)	280	9	17	20½	25½	29½	32½
BSkyB	460	35	49	61½	25½	34	40½
(*485½)	500	18	31½	44	48½	56	62½
Br Bio	140	22½	31	37	11	17	20
(*149½)	160	13½	22½	28½	22	28	31
Cortecs	90	9	14	15½	2½	5½	8
(*94½)	100	4	9	11	8	11	13
Dixons	650	59½	79	91½	16½	29½	38
(*682)	700	33½	54	65	37½	51½	62
EMI	575	52½	68	—	22½	32½	—
(*598½)	603	38	55	—	37½	46	—
Granada	850	57½	77½	94	20	35	42
(*875)	900	31	52	67	45	59½	66
GUS	700	46	65½	82½	21	31½	39
(*714½)	750	23½	41½	58	48½	57	64½
Lloyds TSB	800	62½	84½	102	30½	47½	57½
(*818½)	850	38	59½	78½	57	72½	82
Lonrho	110	12½	15½	18½	3½	5½	6½
(*118)	120	7	10	13½	7½	10	11
Norwich	330	21	32	37½	8½	14½	18½
(*338½)	360	7½	17½	23½	26	38½	34½
Orange	220	15	23½	28	7½	11½	14
(*225)	240	6½	14½	18½	19	22	24½
Railtrck	850	83	100	118	22½	35	43½
(*897½)	900	54	72½	91½	43	57	65½
Scot Pwr	460	44	54½	63½	12	18½	23
(*489)	500	21	32	41½	28	35½	41
Tarmac	130	10	13½	16½	4	6	9½
(*133½)	140	5½	8½	11½	9½	11½	14½
Tomkins	330	25½	32½	40½	6½	12	15
(*344½)	360	10	18	26	21½	27	29½
Unilever	1800	135	188	219	48	78	102½
(*1869½)	1900	88	135½	168½	97½	123	148½

October 2 Total: 58941 Calls: 30164 Puts: 28777

FTSE INDEX (*5288)

Strike	Calls Oct	Calls Nov	Calls Dec	Calls Jan	Calls Jun	Puts Oct	Puts Nov	Puts Dec	Puts Jan	Puts Jun
5150	198½	273½	323	357	—	25½	77	102½	123½	—
5200	157½	235	285½	323½	477	36½	90	116	141	223
5250	120½	202	254½	284	—	51	108	136	161	—
5300	89½	177½	223½	264½	415	71½	128	155½	181½	261½
5350	62½	141½	193	235	—	95½	149½	177	202½	—
5400	42	116½	164½	207	358½	126½	176½	201	227	306
5450	26½	95	142	186½	—	165	208½	231	258	—

October 2 Total: 19845 Calls: 11401 Puts: 8444

*Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest 174341	Dec 97 Mar 98	120-09	120-20	120-03	120-15 120-12	102787 0
German Govt Bond (Bund) Previous open interest 298067	Dec 97 Mar 98	103.29 102.56	103.45 102.56	103.23 102.56	103.41 102.65	143782 16
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest 120594	Dec 97 Mar 98	111.70	112.13	111.21	111.83 111.77	78215 0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 97 Mar 98	129.40 128.37	129.47 128.47	129.30 128.36	129.38 128.43	4093 2048
Three Mth Sterling Previous open interest 628216	Dec 97 Mar 98 Jun 98	92.59 92.56 92.59	92.59 92.57 92.59	92.56 92.53 92.54	92.57 92.55 92.57	9585 7025 9152
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest 1630314	Dec 97 Mar 98	96.43 96.20	96.45 96.23	96.42 96.17	96.43 96.19	34724 43860
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest 419962	Dec 97 Mar 98	93.73 94.51	93.81 94.59	93.65 94.45	93.74 94.54	37521 29101
Three Mth Euroyen	Mar 98 Jun 98				99.46 99.39	0 0
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest 155747	Dec 97 Mar 98	98.19 98.05	98.25 98.09	98.19 98.03	98.24 98.07	10988 6297
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest 35693	Dec 97 Mar 98	95.58 95.54	95.59 95.54	95.55 95.50	95.56 95.51	823 645
FTSE 100 Previous open interest 69176	Dec 97 Mar 98	5420.0 5468.0	5440.0 5468.0	5360.0 5464.0	5375.0 5423.0	11535 34

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7 Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 7⅛ Week fixed: 7¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 7; 3 mth 7. Sell: 2 mth 6⅞; 3 mth 6⅞.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	7⅛-7	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	
Sterling Money Rates	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛
Interbank	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛
Overnight: open 7⅛, close 7⅛					
Local Authority Deps	7⅛	n/a	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛
Sterling CDs	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛
Dollar CDs	5.54	n/a	5.64	5.70	5.87
Building Society CDs	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	5¾-5⅝	5⅞-5¾	5½-4½
Deutschemark:	3¼-2⅞	3¼-3	3⅜-3¼	3½-3⅜	3¼-2½
French Franc:	3¼-3	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3½-3⅜	3¼-2½
Swiss Franc:	1½-1¼	1½-1⅜	1½-1⅜	1⅝-1½	1¼-½
Yen:	½-⅜	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Bard & Co)

Bullion: Open $332.85-333.15 Close: $333.30-333.80 High: $333.30-333.80
Low: $330.45-330.95 AM: $331.75 PM: $333.35

Krugerrand: $333.00-335.00 (£206.00-208.00)

Platinum: $431.00 (£267.05) Silver: $5.22 (£3.165) Palladium: $192.00 (£118.95)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for October 2	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2156-3.2256	3.2156-3.2186	¼-1pr	3½-2⅞pr
Brussels	*58.897-59.120*	*58.897-58.944*	*20-15pr*	*56-49pr*
Copenhagen	10.866-10.905	10.866-10.874	⅛-⅛pr	⅝-⅜pr
Dublin	1.1071-1.1163	1.1098-1.1118	12-5pr	33-26pr
Frankfurt	2.8531-2.8651	2.8548-2.8568	⅛-⅛pr	2⅞-2⅝pr
Lisbon	290.86-291.87	290.86-291.14	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Madrid	241.02-242.00	241.17-241.39	44-34pr	135-117pr
Milan	2796.9-2814.5	2798.8-2802.5	13pr-3ds	46-24pr
Montreal	2.2202-2.2268	2.2223-2.2240	0.70-0.64pr	1.39-1.31pr
New York	1.6108-1.6165	1.6158-1.6165	0.215-0.195pr	0.615-0.585pr
Oslo	11.453-11.491	11.464-11.474	1-¼pr	1-⅛pr
Paris	9.5890-9.6250	9.5922-9.5972	3⅛-3pr	9⅛-9pr
Stockholm	12.200-12.243	12.200-12.214	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Tokyo	194.68-195.67	195.44-195.67	1½-1pr	3½-3pr
Vienna	20.082-20.167	20.090-20.105	1⅛-1pr	3⅛-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.3437-2.3533	2.3437-2.3462	1¼-1pr	3⅛-3pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia 1.3708-1.3717
Austria 12.44-12.45
Belgium (Com) 36.48-36.49
Canada 1.3769-1.3774
Denmark 6.7329-6.7349
France 5.9412-5.9422
Germany 1.7685-1.7690
Hong Kong 7.7367-7.7377
Ireland 1.4535-1.4555
Italy 1733.6-1735.1
Japan 120.81-120.91
Malaysia 3.3260-3.3360
Netherlands 1.9913-1.9923
Norway 7.0875-7.0925
Portugal 180.08-180.18
Singapore 1.5310-1.5320
Spain 149.28-149.37
Sweden 7.5502-7.5552
Switzerland 1.4531-1.4536

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso* 1.6134-1.6161
Australia dollar 2.2136-2.2165
Bahrain dinar 0.601-0.615
Brazil real* 1.7668-1.7712
China yuan 13.211-13.511
Cyprus pound 0.8375-0.8565
Finland markka 8.5025-8.6435
Greece drachma 447.0-457.5
Hong Kong dollar 12.4932-12.5026
India rupee 57.69-58.99
Indonesia rupiah .... n/a
Kuwait dinar KD 0.483-0.494
Malaysia ringgit 5.3708-5.3903
New Zealand dollar 2.5078-2.5114
Pakistan rupee .... 63.75 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal 5.805-5.940
Singapore dollar 2.4694-2.4728
S Africa rand (com) 7.449-7.618
U A E dirham 5.8575-5.9935
Barclays Bank GTS • Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	531	Legal & Gn	4,000
ASDA Gp	4,500	Lloyds TSB	6,800
Abbey Ntl	3,000	LucasVarity	3,500
Allnce & Leic	3,300	Marks Spr	2,600
Allied Dom	1,200	NatWst Bk	13,100
AB Foods	213	Nat Grid	2,100
BAA	3,000	Nat Power	1,600
BAT Inds	9,900	Next	2,000
BG	7,400	Norwich Un	8,100
BOC	1,500	Orange	1,600
BP	7,500	P & O	6,300
BSkyB	736	Pearson	2,400
BTR	11,300	PowerGen	1,800
BT	56,100	Prudential	3,100
Bk of Scot	7,000	RMC	229
Barclays	9,700	Railtrack	1,800
Bass	3,100	Rank Group	1,500
Billiton	3,700	Reckitt Col	989
Blue Circle	3,300	Reed Intl	8,800
Boots	740	Rentokil	1,800
BAe	783	Reuters	8,200
BA	2,100	Rio Tinto	2,700
British Land	2,700	Rolls Royce	3,300
Brit Steel	10,900	Royal & Sun	3,900
Cable Wire	3,800	Royal Bk Sct	1,300
Cadbury	4,000	Safeway	5,100
Carlton Cms	3,600	Sainsbury	1,600
Centrica	13,300	Schroders	108
Cm Union	1,700	Scot & New	1,800
Dixons	2,200	Scot Power	2,500
EMI	2,800	Svrn Trent	3,300
Energy Gp	785	Shell Trans	16,200
Enterpr Oil	2,400	Siebe	1,600
GKN	1,800	SmKl Bch	6,500
GRE	3,300	Smiths Inds	662
GUS	2,400	Std Chartd	6,300
Gen Acc	777	Sun Life	1,900
Gen Elec	12,100	TI Gp	3,200
Glaxo Well	3,800	Tesco	6,400
Granada	3,500	Thames W	4,600
Grand Met	6,000	Tomkins	723
Guinness	11,100	Unilever	2,200
HSBC	2,800	Utd Utilities	3,900
Halifax	5,500	Utd News	643
Hays	821	Vodafone	7,900
ICI	2,200	Whitbread	784
Kingfisher	3,200	Williams	899
LASMO	3,900	Wolseley	624
Ladbroke	5,900	Woolwich	9,600
Land Secs	2,380	Zeneca	1,400

WALL STREET

	Oct 2 midday	Oct 1 close
AMP Inc	52¼	52¼
AMR Corp	111⅝	111⅝
AT & T	43⅝	44⅛
Abbott Labs	63¾	64⅛
Advanced Micro	28⅝	27
Aetna Life	79¼	79⅛
Ahmanson (HF)	56½	56¼
Air Prod & Chem	82¼	82¼
AirTouch Comm	36⅝	37½
Albertson's	34¼	34⅜
Alcan Alumnm	34⅝	34¾
Allied Signal	42½	42⅝
Alum Co of Am	82⅝	82¾
Amerada Hess	61⅛	62
Amer El Power	45¾	45⅝
Amer Express	83¾	82¼
Amer Genl Corp	53	52¾
Amer Home Pr	71⅝	71⅝
Amer Intl	104⅝	106⅛
Amer Stores	24⅛	24⅝
Amer Standard	39¼	39⅝
Ameritech	66½	68½
Amgen	47¼	47½
Amoco	97¾	98¾
Andrew Corp	26½	26½
Anheuser-Busch	43⅝	45
Apple Computer	21½	21⅝
Archer Daniels	23⅝	23¾
Armco	5⅝	5⅝
Armstrng Wrld	66½	66½
Asarco	32½	32
Atl Richfield	84¾	85¾
Atmel Corp	35½	35⅝
Auto Data Pro	49½	48½
Avery Dennison	41	41⅝
Avon Products	61½	61⅝
Baker Hughes	43⅝	44
Baltim Gas & El	28⅛	28
Banc One	57⅝	57
BankAmerica	75½	75⅝
Bank of NY	48⅛	48⅝
Bankers Tr NY	123⅝	123⅝
Barnett Banks	72⅝	71⅝
Bausch & Lomb	40½	40⅝
Baxter Intl	53⅝	53½
Bectn Dicknsn	48⅛	48¼
Bell Atlantic	80⅝	81⅛
BellSouth	46⅛	47⅛
Black & Decker	37¼	37⅝
Block (H&R)	38⅝	38¼
Boeing	53⅛	53⅝
Boise Cascade	42	42⅛
Boston Scien	55½	55
Bristol Myrs Sq	82½	83⅛
Browning Ferris	37⅝	38⅛
Brunswick	36⅝	36⅝
Burlington Nthn	96½	97⅛
CMS Energy Corp	36⅛	36⅝
CPC Intl	97¼	93½
CSX	58½	58⅝
Campbell Soup	48¾	49⅛
Carolina Pwr	36	35⅝
Case Corp	66¾	66½
Caterpillar	55	55½
Central & SW	27⅛	27⅛
Champion Intl	61⅛	61¾
Chase Manhat	119½	119⅝
Chevron Corp	84½	85
Chrysler	35½	36½
Chubb Corp	72½	72⅛
Cigna Corp	180¾	180¼
Citicorp	134⅝	134½
Clorox	74½	74¼
Coastal Corp	62½	62¾
Coca Cola	61⅝	61⅝
Coca Cola Ent	27¼	27⅛
Colgate-Palm	69⅝	69½
Columbia Gas	70⅝	70¼
Columbia/HCA	29	29¼
Compaq Comp	74½	75⅛
Comp Ass Intl	73⅛	73⅛
Conagra	33½	67⅝
Cons Edison	34¼	34½
Cons Nat Gas	58½	59⅛
Cooper Inds	54½	54½
CoreStates	66¾	66⅛
Corning Inc	47⅛	47⅛
C'wide Credit	35½	36
Crestar Finl	47¼	46⅝
Crown Cork	45⅛	45⅝
Dana Corp	51½	50¾
Dayton Hudson	59⅝	60⅛
Deere	54½	54¼
Delta Air Lines	95½	96⅛
Deluxe Corp	34¼	34⅛
Digital Equip	42¾	43
Dillard Dept St	43⅛	43⅛
Disney (Walt)	82⅛	82⅛
Dominion Res	37⅝	38⅛
Donelley (RR)	36½	36⅛
Dover Corp	67⅝	67⅛
Dow Chemical	91	91⅛
Dow Jones	47⅛	47¼
Dresser	42¼	42¾
Duke Power	49⅝	50
Dun & Bradstreet	28⅛	28½
Du Pont	62⅛	62⅛
Eastman Chem	62½	62½
Eastman Kodak	64⅛	66½
Eaton Corp	[illegible]	93
Edison Intl	25⅛	25⅛
Elect Data Sys	36⅝	36¼
Emerson Elec	56⅝	56⅝
Engelhard Corp	21⅛	21⅛
Enron Corp	38⅝	38⅝
Entergy	25⅛	25⅛
Ethyl Corp	9½	9½
Exxon	64⅝	65¼
FMC Corp	89⅝	89⅝
FPL Group	50½	51
Federal Express	79⅝	80
Fifth Third Banc	66⅝	66½
Fleet Finl Grp	65½	65⅝
Fluor Corp	53¼	53⅛
Ford Motor	46½	45¾
Fort James	45⅝	46
Fortune Brands	33⅝	33¼
Franklin Res	93¾	93½
GTE Corp	46⅝	46¼
Gannett	108	109⅛
Gap Inc Del	51⅛	50½
Gateway 2000	30½	30⅝
Gen Dynamics	87½	87½
Gen Electric	66½	68⅛
Gen Mills	70½	70½
Gen Motors	68½	67⅝
Gen Reinsurance	200¾	201⅝
Gen Signal	43½	43½
Genuine Parts	31⅝	31½
Georgia Pac	104⅛	105
Gillette	86¾	86⅝
Glaxo Wellc ADR	43¼	44¼
Goodrich (BF)	45⅛	45⅝
Goodyear Tire	69⅛	69⅛
Great Lakes	50½	51⅛
Halliburton	52½	52⅛
Harcourt General	50⅛	50
Heinz (HJ)	46⅝	46½
Hercules	49⅛	49½
Hershey Foods	56	56⅛
Hewlett Packard	68⅝	68½
Hilton Hotels	32⅝	32½
Home Depot	53⅝	53½
Homestake Mng	14⅝	14⅛
Honeywell	66⅝	67½
Household Intl	116⅝	115⅝
Houston Inds	21½	21½
Humana	23½	23½
ITT Corp	68⅛	68½
Ikon Office	25½	25⅝
Illinois Tool	49⅝	49⅝
Illinova	21½	21½
INCO	25⅛	25⅛
Ingersoll Rand	43½	43⅛
Inland Steel	21⅛	21⅛
Intel Corp	93¾	93¼
IBM	103½	103⅝
Intl Flav & Fr	49⅛	48⅝
Intl Paper	54¼	54½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	57½	57⅝
Kellogg	42⅛	42½
Kerr-McGee	68½	68⅝
Kimberly-Clark	47⅝	48½
Kmart	14⅛	14⅛
Knight-Ridder	55⅛	55⅛
Lilly (Eli)	120¾	121½
Limited Inc	24⅛	24⅛
Lincoln Nat	69½	70
Litton	54½	55½
Liz Claiborne	56¼	56½
Lockheed Martin	105⅝	106
Louisiana Pac	25½	25½
MCI Comm	35⅛	35¼
Manpower Inc	39	39⅛
Marriott Int	74	73
Marsh & McLnn	77⅛	77⅛
Masco Corp	46¼	45⅛
May Dept St	53½	53⅛
Maytag Corp	33⅛	33½
McDonalds	48⅛	48⅛
McGraw Hill	68¼	67⅝
Mead Corp	70¾	71
Medtronic	47⅛	47⅛
Mellon Bk	54⅛	55½
Merck Inc	99¼	100⅛
Mercury Fin	1½	1½
Merrill Lynch	73⅛	74⅛
Microsoft	134¼	133½
Minnesota Mine	94½	94¼
Mirage Resorts	29¾	29⅛
Mobil Corp	74¼	75¼
Monsanto	40⅛	40
Morgan (JP)	114½	114⅝
Motorola Inc	71⅛	71⅛
Mylan Labs	22⅛	23
Natl Semi	40⅛	40¼
Natl Service Ind	43½	44
Navistar Int	27⅛	28¼
NY Times A	52¼	52½
Newmont Mng	44⅛	44⅛
Nike B	52⅛	52½
NL Industries	16⅛	16⅛
Nordstrom	64⅛	64⅛
Norfolk Sthrn	102⅝	102⅛
Nthn State Pwr	50⅛	50⅛
Norwest Corp	61⅛	62⅛
Occidental Pet	26½	26
Ohio Edison	23⅛	23½
Oracle	36¼	36
Oryx Energy Co	25¼	26½
Owens Corning	36¼	36⅛
PPG Industries	62½	62⅝
PMI Group	58	57½
PNC Bank	48½	49
PP&L Res	22½	22½
Paccar Inc	58½	57½
Pacificorp	22⅝	22½
Pac Enterprises	33⅛	33⅛
Pall Corp	21⅛	21⅛
Parker Hannifin	46⅛	46
Peco Energy	23⅛	23½
Penney (JC)	59¼	59⅛
Pennzoil	80⅝	81
Pepsico	40⅛	40⅝
Pfizer	59⅝	60⅛
Pharm & Upjhn	35⅛	36⅛
Phelps Dodge	78⅝	78⅝
Philip Morris	42⅛	42⅛
Phillips Pet	50½	51½
Pitney Bowes	82⅛	83⅛
Polaroid	52⅛	52½
Procter & Gmbl	71	70⅝
Providian	39⅛	39¼
Pub Serv E & G	26½	26½
Quaker Oats	49½	49⅝
Ralston Purina	89⅝	89⅝
Raychem Corp	84¼	84⅛
Raytheon	59¾	59⅝
Reebok Intl	46½	48⅛
ReliaStar Fin	40¾	39⅝
Reynolds Metals	70½	70⅛
Rockwell Intl	59½	59½
Rohm & Haas	94½	94⅛
Royal Dutch	57⅛	58⅛
Rubbermaid	25½	25⅝
SBC Comms	61⅛	62¼
Safeco Corp	52⅛	52½
St Paul's Cos	82½	82½
Salomon Inc	76¼	76⅛
Sara Lee Corp	51⅛	51⅝
Schering Plough	51⅛	51⅝
Schlumberger	86	86⅛
Seagram	35¾	35½
Sears Roebuck	57½	57
Shell Trans	46⅛	46½
Sherwin Wlms	29¼	29
Silicon Graphics	25¾	25⅝
Snap-On-Tools	46½	46
Southern Co	22⅛	22⅛
Southtrust	49¾	49⅛
Sprint Corp	51½	52½
Stanley Works	43½	43⅝
Sun Company	43⅝	43⅝
Sun Microsys	45½	45½
Suntrust	68¼	69½
Supervalu	39¼	39⅝
Synovus Fin	24⅛	24¼
Sysco Corp	37½	37½
TRW Inc	59½	59⅛
TIG Hldgs	34½	34⅛
Tandy Corp	37⅝	38
Temple Inland	63½	64
Tenet Healthcare	30	28¾
Tenneco	48½	48½
Texaco	60⅛	60⅝
Texas Inst	131⅛	131⅝
Texas Utilities	36⅛	36⅛
Textron	65⅛	65½
Thermo Elect	40½	40¾
Time Warner	54⅝	54½
Times-Mirror A	55½	55⅝
Timken	40½	40⅛
Torchmark	40⅛	40⅛
Toys R Us	35⅛	35⅝
Transamerica	99⅝	97⅛
Travelers	69½	69½
Tribune	54⅛	54¼
UST Inc	30⅛	30⅛
US Bancorp	98⅝	97½
UAL	86⅛	86⅛
[illegible]	65½	65⅝
US Inds	27½	27½
US West Comm	39⅛	39⅛
US West Media	22⅛	22½
USAirways Group	43⅛	42⅛
USX Marathon	37⅛	37½
Unicom	23½	24⅛
Unilever NV	217⅛	216
Union Camp	62⅝	62⅝
Union Carbide	49⅝	49⅝
Union Pacific	61½	62⅛
Unisys Corp	14¼	15½
USF&G Corp	22⅝	22¼
United Tech	80	81⅛
Unocal Corp	43½	43⅝
VF Corp	94½	95
Wal-Mart Stores	36⅛	36⅝
Warner-Lambert	133¾	133
Waste Mngmt	34½	35
Wells Fargo	281½	280¾
Westinghouse El	28⅛	28½
Weyerhaeuser	59⅛	59¼
Whirlpool	68½	68¼
Whitman	27⅛	27¼
Winn Dixie	36½	36½
Witco Corp	44⅛	44⅝
Woolworth	21½	21½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	75½	75½
Xerox	84½	83½
Xilinx Inc	48	48½

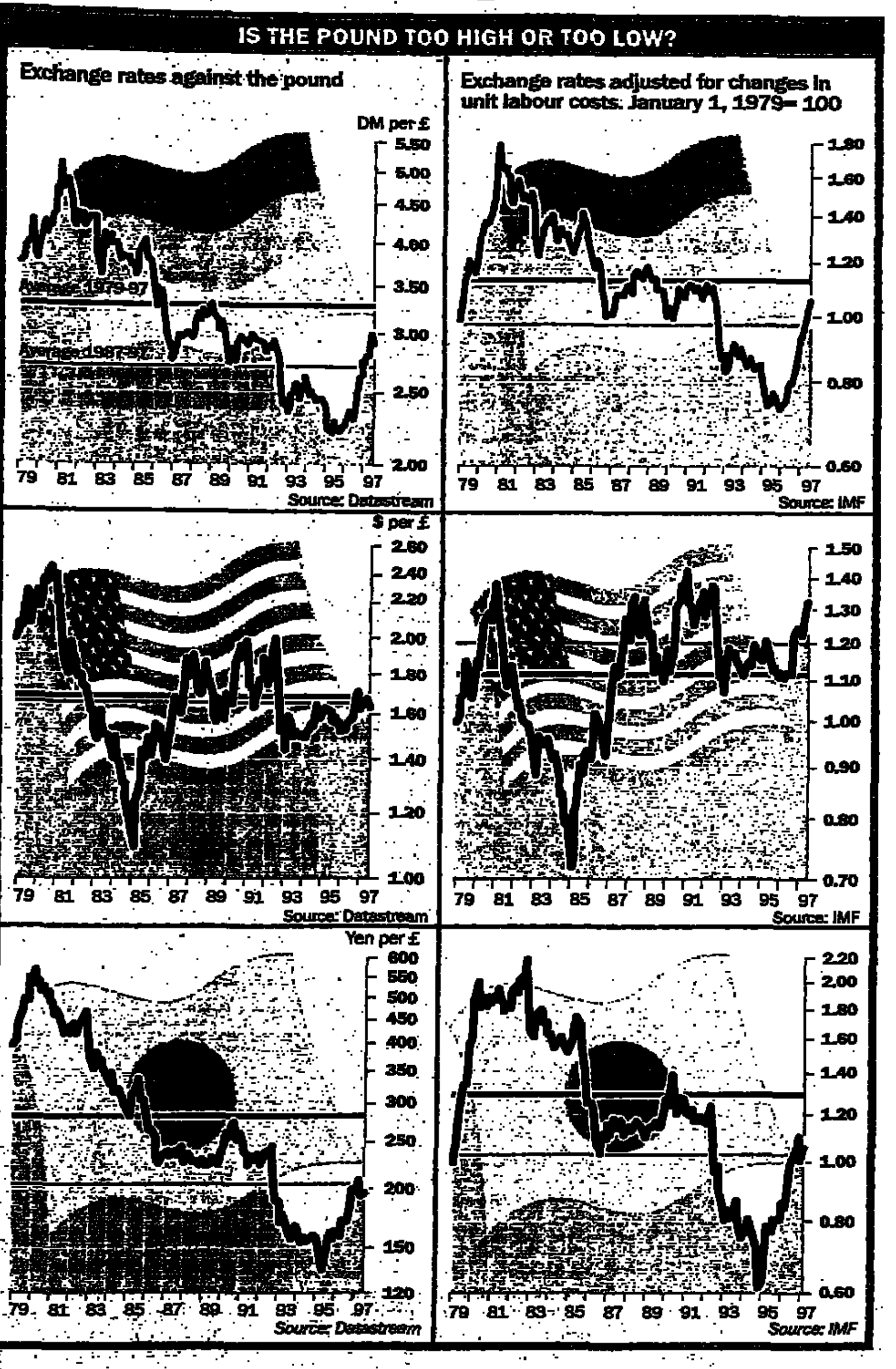
هكذا من الإصل

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Ignore scare stories about Britain joining EMU early

Blair will want to win the next election before risking a single currency referendum



The pound is now back to exactly where it was last Thursday, before the dramatic prediction in the *Financial Times* that Tony Blair was about to announce a referendum on Britain joining the European monetary union. This is understandable, since the story raised more questions than it answered. Here, then, are some answers to the ten questions that seem most important to me.

1) Assuming EMU goes ahead in 1999, will Britain join?

Not in 1999, but probably after 2002 if the single currency survives that long. But this is hardly news. Even the Tory Eurosceptics never demanded a permanent guarantee against EMU membership. "Never say never" is a slogan that almost all politicians understand and accept.

2) What, then, has changed as a result of last week's story?

The Government, according to the story, is moving towards a decision to join EMU well *before* 2002. In order to do this Tony Blair would have to call a referendum before the next general election. According to some political commentators close to Gordon Brown, Labour sees attractions in calling a referendum as early as possible, to capitalise on its present popularity with the voters and to give the Prime Minister a free hand to join EMU whenever he sees fit.

3) Is the story about early EMU membership and a referendum credible?

No. There are numerous economic arguments against joining early — for example, the wide divergence between the British and German business cycles — but the clinching objection is political. For Tony Blair the risks of a referendum seem much too high. Nobody can guarantee that Mr Blair's record personal popularity would be translated into support for the Government on EMU. The obstacle is not so much that public opinion at present runs against the euro. Voters' opinions on EMU are generally believed to be "soft" and open to persuasion by both sides in this argument. The Euro-enthusiasts believe this justifies the risk of a referendum, but the softness of public opinion on Europe can cut both ways. In 1992, President Mitterrand was confident of overwhelming support for his snap referendum on the Maastricht treaty: in fact the "*petit oui*" ended up as a majority of 50.3 to 49.7. But even if Mr Blair thought he had a 70 per cent chance of winning, he would not want to risk a referendum, since the consequence of defeat would be catastrophic; while the rewards of victory would be small or even negative (see question 5).

4) Why is a referendum so risky?

Mr Blair's authority would be shattered if he gratuitously called and then lost a referendum on an issue that the Opposition and the media would turn (quite rightly) into a vote of confidence on the Prime Minister's constitutional and economic judgment. Mr Blair would become a lame duck as surely as President Chirac has in France.

5) But wouldn't an early referendum split the Tories, leaving Mr Blair with nothing to fear, whether he won or lost?

On the contrary. A referendum on early membership of EMU is the event most likely to unite all wings of the Conservative Party. Kenneth Clarke would probably have no hesitation in campaigning about a decision to join EMU on any specific date such as January 2000. He would argue that, while he supported the single currency in principle, the Government had missed the chance of becoming a founder member and had not done enough to bring the British and German economies into line. And if Mr Blair called a referendum demanding an open mandate to join EMU at a time of his own choosing? The Tories would find it even easier to unite in attacking him for demanding a blank cheque. To defeat the Government in a referendum would transform the Tories' morale and their standing in the country. It might even give Mr Clarke a chance to re-enter Tory politics without betraying his pro-European views. Mr Blair must also consider the risks of victory. By leading Britain into early membership of EMU, Mr Blair would put himself in the same position as John Major in 1990, bearing personal responsibility for all the consequences of all economic decisions made in Frankfurt, over which he woudl have little influence and no control.

6) What, then, is the alternative to an early referendum if the Government eventually wants to join EMU?

Instead of calling a referendum, Mr Blair could make membership of EMU after 2002 a plank of his manifesto in the next general election. The Tories would not be able to unite in opposition to such a manifesto commitment, since many in principle believe that such decisions should be taken in elections, rather than referendums. Alternatively, Mr Blair could call a referendum immediately after the next general election. If he won the election, he would be likely to win the referendum. Anyway, he would by then be on course to achieve his over-riding political ambition — to be the first Labour Prime Minister to serve two full terms.

7) Won't these arguments against a referendum collapse in 1999, once the British people see EMU up and running?

Not at all. Although EMU will formally commence on January 1, 1999, nothing visible will actually happen. It will certainly be impossible to claim that EMU had succeeded (or failed) until several years after the starting date. Europe will certainly not erect trade barriers against British exporters and banks will not leave the City of London in the early stages of EMU — especially if it is generally believed that Britain will join after another general election around 2002. If anything, the first few years of EMU are actually likely to see a greater concentration of activity in London's financial markets, as small financial centres such as Milan, Madrid and Amsterdam close down.

8) All these are tactical arguments about timing, so why should anyone care? Surely it makes no difference whether Britain joins in 2002, 2000 or 1999?

In the very long run this may be true. But timing is crucial for three reasons. First, it is possible (though unlikely) that the next election could produce a government with a fundamentally different British policy towards EMU. Secondly, and more plausibly, EMU might "fail" or at least cause serious economic and political tensions in its early years. Britain's gains from remaining outside the potential financial and political turbulence would almost certainly outweigh its loss of influence over decisions on the implementation of EMU, nearly all of which have already been made or will be made in the months immediately before January 1999.

Finally, the question of timing will have a major influence on financial and economic conditions in Britain today. If Britain decided to join EMU, it would have to join the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) and announce a target exchange rate — the figure most often mention is DM2.65 to the pound. The economic impact of such an announcement would depend entirely on the length of the run-up to EMU, as discussed in the next question.

9) Wouldn't British industry gain from a more competitive exchange rate if Britain announced it would join EMU at a rate of DM2.65 to the pound?

The first point to note is that no country has ever joined the ERM (never mind a permanent monetary union) at an exchange rate so far from its current market level (which is DM2.86). Even supposing that this breach of etiquette (also known as "competitive devaluation") were permitted, it is not clear whether the pound would go down or up. If Mr Blair said he planned to join EMU at DM2.65 in 2000, the present difference between British and German interest rates might mean the pound falling slightly from its present level (to about DM2.82). But if Britain joined EMU at DM2.65 in 2002, the pound could actually rise above DM3, since the present differential between German and British interest rates would compensate investors for a devaluation of more than 10 per cent over five years.

10) What then should I do as an investor?

My advice would be to ignore stories about EMU and judge sterling, gilts and equities on their fundamental values. And what do these fundamentals suggest? I only promised to answer ten questions.

Waterstone vision of a books market for middle-brow readers

The WHS bid has the feel of a personal crusade, says **Sarah Cunningham**

When *WH Smith* announced the company had rejected a surprise bid by Tim Waterstone, observers assumed he was after control of Waterstone's, the bookshop chain that he founded and *then sold to WH Smith*. There was some amazement when it turned out that the bid was for the whole group.

"I can't bear to watch the decline of Smith's retail," he said yesterday. "It had no like-for-like growth last year. It is an extraordinary story of decline."

His idea for the WH Smith high street shops, which he has been mulling over since the beginning of this year, is to bring in a lot of the ideas behind the Waterstone's bookshops and behind his *new venture, the Daisy and* Tom children's shop in the King's Road.

Mr Waterstone wants to fill at least 50 per cent of the space with books, with about four times as many books in stock as are currently held by the business. But, unlike Waterstones, the books on the shelves would be mainly middle-brow.

"I'd have every title ever written by Catherine Cookson and every one every written by Joanna Trollope," he said. "I'd have minor authors and lots of books on gardening, reference books, children's books, lots of things that Waterstone's doesn't really do," he said.

The model for the look would be Daisy and Tom's children's book department. "*It would be a lot softer and* more elegant than WH Smith is now," he said. "It is a subtle thing."

Video and music would go from the shops, but stationery, which he likes for its high margins, would be built up. "I'd do it incomparably better. The range is not great enough now. I'd make it an Aladdin's cave," he said.

The other area he wants to build up is news and magazines. "Instead of contracting the ranges, I'd do the reverse. I'd stock every foreign and minority newspaper," he said. Stealing another idea from Waterstone's, which he always insisted should only employ graduates, the staff of WH Smith would also be much more highly trained and motivated.

He speaks with infectious enthusiasm and clearly has a strong vision for how the *underperforming shops* could be changed. To most analysts, the ideas sound appealing but appallingly expensive. This is something he refutes: "Everyone says that Waterstone's didn't make money at the beginning, but it always made money at branch level," he counters. "We just ploughed all the money back into opening new branches."

The whole basis of Mr Waterstone's plan is that he would get same-store sales growth at WH Smith up to about 5 per cent. The Waterstone's chain has much better growth than that, and he feels it does not need changes made to the way it is run.

WH Smith: growth needed

"*Alan Giles (who runs it for* WH Smith) is wonderful. All it needs is a great wodge of capex (capital expenditure) to build up the size of the shops."

One part of the proposal that has caused some scepti*cism among WH Smith* shareholders is his insistence that Daisy and Tom be brought into the main group. He says that the sum of £35 million WH Smith has put on this is unfair, but he firmly believes in the business and insists it would be a core part of the group. He is also keen to keep Smith's news distribution business, but he does not like its book distribution side and is keen to unload its large music business. It would probably be easy to sell Virgin Our Price to *Virgin, but the American* music businesses could prove more difficult to sell.

Smith's main shareholders were curious yesterday to hear about Mr Waterstone's plans for the group, but highly sceptical about the finances. There is some suspicion that Tim Waterstone is either planning to come back with an improved offer or is just trying to get his hands back on his bookshops. "The deal as it looks now just doesn't quite stack up," David Manning, of Foreign and Colonial, said.

Another shareholder said that Mr Waterstone has proved himself to be "clearly very successful in a very focused environment", but was less sure how he would *cope with looking after* a whole group. John Richards, retail analyst at NatWest Markets, believes that whatever Mr Waterstone's record and vision may be, shareholders "want money rather than bits of paper".

"Tim Waterstone," he said, "has a lot of creative retail ideas, but is not very conscious of the bottom line". It is not the best reference for the job of chief executive of WH Smith, although no one doubts that for too long creative retail ideas have been in sadly short supply.

BUSINESS LETTER

Shareholders should vote on executive remuneration

From the Managing Director of Meis Ltd

Sir, It is a matter of concern to me as an adviser on executive remuneration that Hampel's proposals will reduce transparency and help hide the topic of executive remuneration from shareholders. This retrograde proposal will allow the few companies, who are so inclined, to abuse the system.

I disagree with Hampel and have for some time felt a vote on executive remuneration was both practical and highly desirable. If such voting was introduced, shareholders would always give their support to well designed and effectively communicated executive remuneration policies.

It is only those poorly designed and communicated policies that would encounter shareholder hostility, and rightly so.

At the moment, shareholder concerns can only be expressed either through the back door or through voting against the re-election of a director. This might be regarded as slightly extreme. Attending shareholders should be allowed to vote in favour of the directors, but at the same time express views that the package is, say, too rich.

Therefore, the suggestion by the NAPF that the remuneration committee's report should be a voting matter at AGMs should receive the wholehearted support from both remuneration committees and shareholders.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID M W BROOKS,
Managing Director,
Meis Limited,
Performance Management Consulting,
1 Castle Yard,
Richmond upon Thames.

Fee fi fo fum

WARNINGS that last year would be the high-water mark for City fees and it would be bread and dripping under new Labour were ill-founded, because this year looks like setting another record. Philip Healey, editor of *Acquisitions Monthly*, expects fees to hit £1.2 billion. The number of deals in the first nine months is up, but their actual value was £7.4 billion lower at £35.2 billion. Yet the fees keep rising. This suggests the City is charging more for less work, and getting away with it, does it not? Healey says it is all too reminiscent of the boom of the late 1980s. "It's becoming quite crazy. But if you are involved in it, it seems quite normal." In terms of value of deals done, at present the Americans are ahead, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley at first and third place, bracketing Schroders.

"What d'you mean it's good not to talk about it?"

☐ *CHARMING but empty, the Lake District. Which must explain the competition that runs in* The Westmorland Gazette, *heading for the stock market as part of Newsquest. Rather than a Spot the Ball feature, the paper prints a picture of a field of sheep. "Look carefully at the position of the sheep and then use your skill and judgment to place a cross at the exact point where you think the dog's nose was." The competition is called Spot the Dog. Spot, Spot, loveable Spot, he's soft and cuddly and he smiles a lot . . .*

Odd couple

STRANGE, the sudden emergence of Ian Martin into the WH Smith arena as Tim Waterstone's partner. He is a

hard-headed Scottish financier. Waterstone is the man who left the entire takings from the first day's trade of his first bookshop, £924 in all, on the Circle Line. An unlikely couple, but good friends, it seems.

Martin previously ran a British fund for KKR but could never persuade the Americans to part with cash to back his projects, in particular a break-up bid for GrandMet, I hear. He had quit the latter with £556,000 after losing out in the battle for the top job. Martin is chairman of Unigate but has always wanted to get to that top job at GrandMet. You and I, on walking out on our employer with half a million quid in the bank, might not be in a hurry to walk back. But the rich are indeed different.

☐ *GREAT excitement in adland over news that Maurice Saatchi, himself the owner of a Bentley, would be peddling Rolls-Royces, a product that I always assumed sold itself — I mean, you hardly stand outside the showroom agonising between a Roller or a Ford Orion, do you? The story was shifted down a couple of gears by an embarrassed-sounding Vickers, which owns the luxury car brand. Yes, there has been contact with M&C Saatchi over raising the value of used Rollers in the US. Nothing so vulgar as an ad campaign. And don't, please, say used. The phrase is "previously owned".*

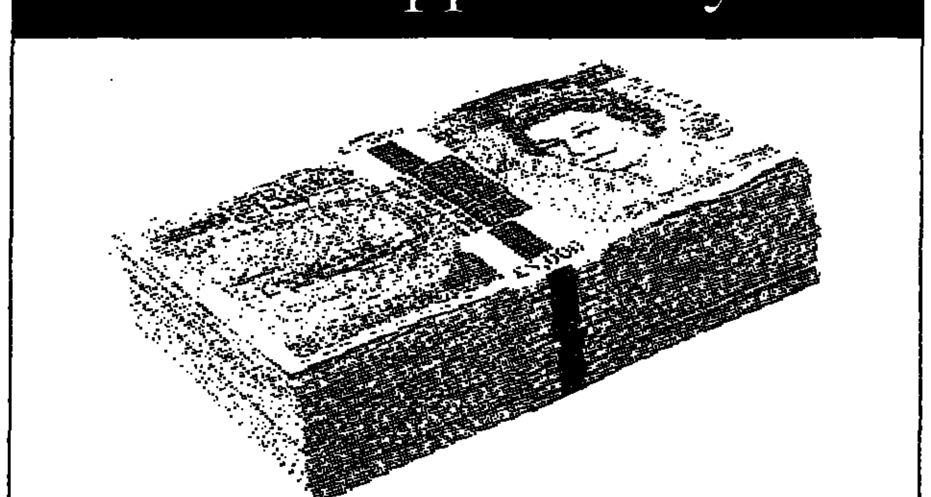
Paris match

TERENCE CONRAN is opening a new restaurant. In Paris. (I mean Sir Terence, of course, except that Terry, as we metropolitan sophisticates call him, now omits any mention of his title in conversation or correspondence). He has found a site, and it will open at the end of next year. A long time to build a brasserie, surely?

"Let me tell you how a restaurant works," says Conran, and I recall, suddenly, that he is known to have a bit of a short fuse. "You find the space, in the location that you are interested in. You have to go through all the planning permission, fire safety and so on. Gradually you start to make decisions about the kind of food you are going to serve and the price level." So the *venue has as yet no name, no* chef and no menu. Conran believes French restaurants are in the doldrums. If so, he has an opportunity to put this right next spring. He has been invited across to Paris to lecture on the subject. The invitation came from Paul Bocuse, the *grandest fromage* in French chefdom.

MARTIN WALLER

Terence Conran is taking on the French at their own gastronomic game



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Equities take a breather

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
493½	407½	Allied Domecq	478½	- 8½	5.7	14.4
626	385	Bulmer (HP)	422½		4.3	11.8
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	44	- 2½	10.0	
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	975		1.7	24.1
631	425½	Grand Met	583½	- 12½	3.2	18.7
627	424	Guinness†	583½	- 5	3.3	16.1
360	286½	Highland Dist	287½		3.7	13.5
736	213	Matthew Clark†	263½	+ 7	11.4	7.9
105½	57½	Usrydum Vit	58		6.6	14.0
2318½	1462½	SA Breweries	1808½	+ 9½	2.1	..

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521½	918½	ABN-AMRO	1318½	+ 46½	2.5	18.3
984½	710	Abbey Nat†	963½	- 13	3.6	15.8
707½	522½	Alliance & Leic†	707½	+ 4½	2.9	16.6
563	388½	Allied Irish	562½	+ 15	3.2	16.0
516½	363½	Aus New Z	513½	+ 4½	3.7	.
4706½	2875	Bank America	4668½	+ 62½		
538½	291½	Bank Scotland	522½	+ 16	2.1	14.4
1800	978½	Barclays†	1747	+ 25½	2.4	16.6
792½	517½	Bk of Ireland	792½	+ 22	2.5	17.5
8528½	5008½	Citicorp	8368½			
1759½	1268½	Commerzbk	1696½	+ 3½	2.8	
862½	559½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	662½	- 16½	0.7	
4471½	2709½	Deutsche Bk	4446½		1.4	..
1300	759½	Espirito Santo	1275	- 3½	2.9	
947½	584½	Fuji Bank Y	657	- 22½	0.7	
2369½	1272½	HSBC†	2302½	- 39	2.6	17.8
2258½	1241	HSBC HK†	2102½	- 36½	2.7	17.0
783	696½	Halifax	737	- 1½	2.5	24.8
610	483½	Irish Perm†	605	+ 10	2.6	16.7
860½	424	Lloyds TSB†	837½	- 30	2.2	23.9
1008	669½	Nat Aust Bk	980½	+ 26½	4.1	13.6
1009	663½	Nat West†	986	+ 33½	3.8	15.6
723½	508	Ryl Bk Scot	672½	- 24	3.8	14.5
1093½	691	Stand Chart†	896½	- 10	2.3	14.6
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½		2.0	
403½	315½	Westpac	387	- 2½	3.8	.
373½	284	Woolwich†	313½	+ 3½	3.7	18.6

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
878½	717½	Bass	831½	- 4	3.8	15.6
68½	43½	Bar Ice the Bar	52	- ½	4.3	11.0
205	142½	Burtonwd Brw	190		5.0	14.0
155½	131½	Cafe Centre Rest†	141		2.2	21.9
744½	575½	Compass Gp	681	+ 1½	1.6	25.0
305	250	Eldridge P A	275		2.5	15.2
258½	227	Enterprise Inns	245½	- ½	3.6	17.3
485	412	Fuller Sm A	432½		2.9	15.1
586	368½	Greenalls Grp	368½	- 1½	5.4	9.2
770	642	Greene King	694	- 3½	2.9	14.9
237½	152½	Grosvenor Inns	194½	+ 3	4.2	19.9
285	218½	Groupe Chez Ger	281½	- 1	1.3	27.6
298½	255½	Hardy Hansn	258½		5.3	11.5
2850	2625	Holt J	2650	- 25	2.8	14.7
78	63	Ino Business†	66		3.1	10.5
357	330	Mansfield	322½		2.7	14.1
315½	252	Marston Thmp	281½	- 2	3.6	9.8
615	502½	Morland	509	+ 1	3.2	13.1
266½	210	Old Eng Pub	249½	- 5	1.0	31.6
47½	18½	Paramount	25½			
830½	527½	PizzaExpress†	807½		0.5	
437½	332½	Ramsden (H)	362½		1.7	32.1
378½	262½	Regent Inns	301	- 5	1.4	
130	102½	SFI	117½	+ 2	0.8	25.0
768½	627	Scot & New	715	+ 3	3.7	15.3
305	244	Vaux Group	252½	+ 3	5.3	11.4
1524	1105	Wetherspoon JD†	1502½	+ 20	0.8	
863	738½	Whitbread	792	- 11½	3.8	14.6
708½	513	Wolvrhmptn D	619		4.2	11.3
377	279½	Yates Bros	372½		1.0	29.8
702½	815	Young A	665	- 2½	2.8	26.9

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
218½	162½	Car Group	218½	+ 1	2.2	23.5
162½	117½	Cawdale	159½		3.0	9.2
100	61½	Charles Sidney	77	+ 1	5.2	10.8
59½	45½	Cook (DC)†	46½	- ½	6.5	8.2
121	90½	Dag Motors	113½		9.0	7.2
134½	102½	Denmans B	102½		3.4	9.4
400	217	Diploma	245	+ 2½	7.4	9.3
494	307½	Electrocomps	475½		2.0	26.8
226½	117½	Eurodis Elect	175	+ ½	3.8	34.2
105	76½	European Mtr	103	- ½	6.8	9.2
300	213	Evans Halshaw†	272		7.6	
56½	39½	Fife Indmar†	54½		7.8	8.9
397½	312½	Finelist Grp†	343½		2.8	15.2
34½	24½	Gardner†	25	+ ½	4.8	9.2
79½	57½	Glenchewton	72	+ 2	2.7	11.7
110	82½	Gowrings†	108½	...	3.6	17.7
15½	11	HR Owen	14½		6.6	9.3
103	20½	Hamlet#	22½			2.1
272½	232½	Harris (Philip)†	263½		4.7	10.2
337½	284½	Hoodless	336½		2.3	20.3
165	145	Holders Tech	165		4.9	13.5
240½	149½	ISA Intl	149½		2.5	11.3
309½	240½	Inchcape†	293½	+ 3½	4.2	19.3
72	49½	Jacks (Wm)†	67½	..	4.6	8.7
328½	214½	Kwik-Fit	328½	+ 6	2.2	18.0
459½	316½	Lex Service	447½		4.6	13.5
122	100	Lookers	101	- 1½	9.9	7.2
9	5½	Middlesex	8	+ ½	1.6	14.0
41½	10½	Motoshops†	14		4.3	
472	180	Norman	337½	+ 1½	3.1	11.4
181½	114½	Northambes	180½	+ 1	1.8	10.8
352½	299½	Partco	300	- 3½	3.4	15.8
394½	254½	Pendragon	271½	..	4.7	12.0
337½	172½	Perry Gp	180		6.5	7.8
751	448	Premier Farnell	535	+ 2½	2.8	19.8
152½	122½	Quicks Group†	132½		7.4	8.3
357	307½	REA†	312		1.6	38.5
2½	1½	Reece	1½			50.2
28	12½	Ronson	15	- ½	2.1	.
4	1½	Ross Gp	2½			
109½	78½	Ryland†	91½		5.6	8.6
38	24	SEP Indl	26½		7.2	12.4
92½	25	Salter	27½		5.5	
415½	270½	Time Products	273	- 7	5.6	10.4
347	184½	Trust Motor Grp	185½		7.7	8.1
374	228	UNECO	367½	- 2½	1.9	23.0
90½	58	United Carriers Gp	88	+ 1		18.1
352½	267½	Vardy (Reg)	336½		3.1	14.6
685	498½	WF Elect†	614	+ 3	3.1	21.1
41	25½	Wilshaw†	31	- ½	3.4	8.7
172½	111½	Wyko†	150½		2.6	16.7
157½	119½	Young (H)	157½		3.4	13.4

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492½	327½	Antofagasta	415		1.6	21.3
328	232	Ascot Hldgs	269	+ 8	2.4	11.6
917	703	Broken Hill	737½	+ 8½	3.1	17.8
289	180½	BTR†	241	- 7	4.6	8.4
601½	462	BAT†	567½	+ 13	5.7	12.2
60½	49½	Brierley Inv	55		8.6	9.0
266	182	Coalson	252		4.4	15.6
229½	197½	Corall	214½		6.0	9.3
402½	295½	DCC	392½		2.2	14.6
312½	243½	Gatehert	285	- 2	8.4	8.9
140½	101½	Hanson Crstd	123½	- ½	9.2	13.4
667½	423½	Hutch Whamp	608½	- ½	2.0	36.2
438½	361	Imperial Tob	367	- 3	6.8	7.4
522½	331	Jardine Math†	504½	+ ½	3.1	19.2
158½	104	Lonrho	118	- 1½	6.0	12.3
175½	141½	McLeod Russel	164		5.2	13.0
458½	388½	Powell Duffryn	448½	+ 7½	7.0	12.7
197½	153½	Staveley	165		6.8	14.4
604½	448½	Swire Pacific	471½	- 1½	1.0	
397½	313	TT Group	375	- 1	2.7	15.2
351	252½	Tomkins†	346½	- ½	3.5	15.9
210	165	Unitare	200	- 2½	8.1	10.4
418	369½	Wardle Storeys	370		6.6	13.8
387	285½	Wassall†	347	+ ½	2.5	15.5
166½	122½	Whitecroft	126	- ½	5.0	18.3

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1320	897	Siebe†	1282½	- 12½	1.2	24.5
227½	185½	Six Hundred	139	- 8½	4.5	5.2
936	708½	Smiths Ind	935½	+ 10½	2.2	22.7
737½	595	Spirax Sarco†	728	+ 1	2.4	19.9
303½	239½	Sterling Ind	263½	- ½	4.7	12.8
690½	450	TI†	673½	+ 2½	2.6	21.4
120½	101½	Tinsley (E)	111	...	8.9	10.4
120½	92½	TransTec	110½	- 2	2.8	15.9
206½	144½	Triplex Lloyd	198½		4.4	16.0
222½	150½	Unicorn Intl	222½		3.5	
77½	48½	Utd Inds	62		4.8	17.3
273½	169½	Vickers†	209	- 2½	4.3	13.0
10½	8½	Villiers Grp	8½			
712½	505	Vitec	642½		2.5	12.1
952	742	Vosper Thorny	812½	- 2½	4.0	13.1
350	213½	Wagon Indl	257½	+ 4	5.8	11.2
293½	203½	Weir†	210	+ 2½	3.5	14.2
259½	175	Wellington Hdgt	176		5.8	10.2
33	23	Wellman	27½	- ½	8.3	8.2
81½	45½	Wescol	61	+ 2½	2.3	20.3
767	525	Wolseley	767	+ 4½	2.3	22.3
65½	30½	Widney†	35		12.5	...

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
154	97	Adwest	149	.	6.5	12.1
197	172	Airflow Stream	173½	.	5.8	11.0
757	585	Avon Rubber	657½	..	3.8	13.6
310	227½	Bectron	310	+ 15	2.9	15.4
133	96	Brltax	132½	+ 1	3.3	17.2
850	657½	First Tech†	847½	+ 1	1.5	22.2
1462½	907	GKN	1353	- 38	2.3	.
4321½	3237½	General Mtr	4258½	+ 68½	2.9	
583½	375	Hadley†	377½	- 1½	6.1	9.0
2254½	1540½	Honda Motor	2187½	- 42½	0.5	
477	312½	Laird†	476½	+ 5½	3.3	13.1
244½	180	LucasVarity	234	+ 2	2.1	17.9
191½	131	Mayflower	190	+ ½	1.6	26.8
172½	137½	Syltone†	149½	+ 2	5.4	10.9
256½	123	T & N†	249½	+ 3	3.1	.
45½	26½	Trad	32½			
339½	238½	Trinity Hldgs	307½	+ 5	3.8	14.1

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
577	454	AB Food	540	- 7½	2.2	17.9
311½	260	Acatos & Hutch	275		4.8	23.1
49½	34	Albert Fisher	37½	+ 1	12.5	8.9
320	275	Banks (S C)†	291	..	4.9	10.4
450	322	Barr (AG)	445		3.0	15.9
43	30	Bensons Crsp	32	+ 1	4.4	8.0
402	244	Booker	326	+ 2	9.4	
62½	20½	Budhwick	61½		2.6	23.2
220	90	CPL Aromas	106½		5.6	28.5
627½	464	Cadbury-Schwp†	597½	- 2	3.4	16.2
336	280	Carr Milling	320	.	4.3	10.5
81½	57½	Couplant	61½		7.5	11.4
267½	203½	Cranswick	249½	+ 3½	5.1	12.8
275½	195½	Dairy Crest Group	275		4.5	12.3
363½	217½	Dalgety	258½	+ 1	6.6	
52½	30½	Daniels St	39½	- ½	1.1	21.9

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
34	24	Edinburgh Inca	33			
421	323½	Edinburgh IT	430½	+ 1	3.1	34.3
134	102½	Edin Japan	108½	- 1½		
457	312	Edn US Tk	451	- 1	1.6	77.2
502	430½	Electra Inv	489	+ ½	2.3	45.8
765	145½	Eng & Scott	164½	+ ½	2.3	42.8
412½	372	European Asset	412	+ 1½	1.2	..
117½	82½	Fidelity Asian Val	93½	- ½		
282½	216½	Fidelity Euro Val	282	+ ½	0.2	..
136½	119½	Fidelity Spec Val	130½	+ 2½		

LEISURE & HOTELS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
81½	34½	ABI Leis	36½	..	17.5	3.6
1243½	797	Airtours	1078½	+ 3½	1.9	19.5
59½	30½	Alld Leis	35½		3.6	.
67½	37½	Arcadian	60½		2.5	
22	9½	Avana Leis	21½	+ ½		
167½	122½	BS Group†	158½		5.2	...
132½	95	Baldwin†	120	+ 5	4.2	16.8
280½	79½	Bluebird Toys	120		9.6	8.8
1075	747½	Boosey Hwks	787½	...	1.5	29.4
3½	1½	Brent Walker	1½			
41½	24½	Busdone	30½	+ 1	8.2	7.9
218½	152½	Capital Corp†	169	+ ½	5.0	19.1
121	93½	Character Gp	118½	- 1	3.9	8.9
104½	58½	Chrysalis†	65		4.8	11.1
180½	74½	Clubhaus	91½	+ 1½		22.2
250	180	EuroCamp	237½	...	5.8	12.8
128	75	Euro Disney	84			
198½	128½	Ezra Leisure	138	- 1½	3.8	..
115½	72½	First Choice†	98½		3.6	
376½	274	First Leisure†	281	+ ½	3.8	15.4
171½	133½	Friendly Hotels	139½		5.1	20.7
981	737	Granada	875	+ 3½	1.9	24.0
50	29½	Hi-Tec Sports	46		3.3	10.3
244½	184½	Hornby	185		4.4	8.3
488½	256	Havelock	307	+ 1½	4.7	11.7
165½	139½	Jarvis Hotels	151	+ 1	3.3	11.7
395½	272	Jurys Hotel	373½	- ½	2.1	
28	21½	Kunick	22		4.3	13.5
278½	217½	Ladbroke†	276	- ½	2.9	24.9
419	298½	London Clubs	347½	+ ½	3.0	21.7
231	167½	Macdonald Hts	197½	+ 2½	2.8	16.5
733½	577½	Man Utd	699	- 2	1.2	..
91	61½	Mandarin Orntl	83		6.2	11.6
432½	333	Millennium & Cop	432½		2.0	18.0
1½	1	Millwall Hldgs▲	1½			
144½	113½	Newcastle Utd	116½		1.7	..
311½	191½	Nadbury	311½		2.4	
180½	77½	Prism Leisure	98½		9.8	4.5
38	26½	Queensborough	27½	- ½	1.8	11.8
18½	12	Queens Moat	12½	- ½		3.4
458½	325½	Rank Grp†	363½	+ 2	5.9	12.7
53½	40½	Ryan Hotels E	52½	..	4.3	10.9
1600	1255	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1290		1.7	...
111½	39½	Sheffield United	93½	- 4		
265½	164½	Sinclair (Wm)	265½	+ 11	3.9	15.2
153½	47	Southampton	72½		1.7	

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
44½	10½	St Barbara	12½	+ ½	...	
397½	219½	St Helena	245½	- 5½	9.2	..
348½	194½	Sons Gwalia	205½	.	5.6	13.0
220½	138½	Sthern Pacific	160	- 2½		
1859½	1140½	Southvaal	1369½	- 68½	8.5	11.7
4793½	2509½	Vaal Reefs	3259½	+ 134½	7.0	
418	272½	WMC	303	+ 3½	2.5	23.3
37½	16	Waikie Cal Z	27	..	5.6	8.4
57½	27½	Water Hall	51½	- 1	...	
480	405	Wattle Blake	438		4.7	15.2
2162½	1200	Western Deep	1578½	- 50	6.5	.
205	65½	Zambia Copper	158½	- 2½	...	

OIL & GAS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
158½	113½	Abbot Group	156½		1.7	25.0
65½	22½	Alliance Res	32½	+ 1		
111	60½	Aus Oil & Gas	100	- ½		
42½	19	Aviva Pet	21			
503	257½	Br Borneo†	467		0.7	60.3
278	134	BG	257½	- 4½	5.8	23.4
965	662	Br Petroleum†	932½	- 4	2.8	20.5
2½	1	Bula Resources	1½			
1139	965½	Burmah Castl	1131½	+ 23	5.3	15.5
638	415	Cairn Energy	492½	- 4		
96½	55	Centrica	94½			
24½	11½	Capten Res	15½			
29½	14½	Dana Pet	22½			
101½	31½	Dragon Oil	72½	+ 2½		
38½	24½	Edm Oil & Gs	25½		1.4	16.5
8½	3½	Emerald Energy	5	- ½		
734½	604	Enterprise†	674	- 7½	3.2	24.9
16½	3½	Fortune	15½			87.0
372½	264½	Hardy Oil	340		0.5	73.6
8	5	Int Tool & Sup	6			
105½	29	JKX Oil & Gas	54			
288	216½	LASMO	270	- 7	4.2	72.5
47½	40½	Lasmo Units	45½		21.5	
92	67½	Monument	82	- 1		42.8
3784½	2803½	Norsk Hydro	3685½	+ 6½	1.7	10.5
19½	16½	Oceonics#	19			
201	117½	Oil Search	136½	- 5½		
61½	42	Petroc	46½	+ 1		
51½	34½	Premier	51½	+ ½	1.3	10.1
65½	39	Pittencrieff Rs	61½	- 2		38.3
665½	528½	Ranger	598½	+ 13½	3.3	10.4

BUILDING MATERIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
56	33	Aggregate Inds†	53½	+ ½	4.7	23.9
338	256½	BPB	348	+ 1½	3.7	15.4
110½	91½	Baggeridge Bk	97½		4.0	34.6
64½	27½	Blockleys	60½	+ 2		
452	351	Blue Circle†	383	- 12	4.2	16.0
107½	78½	Breedon PLC	102½	- 6	6.4	13.7
152½	119	Br Dredging	146	- ½	5.1	12.0
719	532½	CRH	719	+ 16½	1.4	17.7
59½	42½	Calebread Royt	44½		8.7	4.4
192½	152½	Capet	153½		4.9	12.0
273	185½	Caradon†	193½	+ ½	6.1	9.5
139½	102	Caradon cf	106		8.5	
69½	50	Chelton Gp†	67½		6.3	6.7
272½	212½	Dyson (J&J)	240		3.0	14.0
145	122	Dyson 'A'	140		5.1	8.1
4	2½	Eardone	2½			
290	215	Eplai†	219½		5.3	13.3
101½	83½	Gibbs & Dandy	92½	+ 1	6.2	9.9
148	113	Graham Grp†	141		5.1	20.3
365½	187½	Halstead (J)	207½		5.7	9.6
334½	271½	Hanson†	302	+ 7	5.0	12.1
257½	201½	Hepworth	210		7.5	14.2
105½	72½	Hewden	99		6.3	9.3
268	192½	Heywd Wms	215½	+ ½	8.0	8.3
75½	53	Ibstock	54½	- ½	4.6	20.5
530	275	Johnston	312½	- 10	4.9	11.3
82½	62½	Lilleshall	75		8.1	9.6
137	103½	Marley†	112		5.1	10.9
160½	119½	Marshalls	138½		4.8	20.8
457½	361½	Meyer Int	427½	- 1½	3.5	19.5
95½	65½	Novera	71½	- 2½	3.5	17.6
159	130	Pilkington	155½	- 1½	4.0	19.4
354½	139½	Polypipe	315½		2.0	16.0
1147½	878½	RMC Grp†	990	+ 3½	3.2	13.9
381½	211½	Redland	232½	+ ½	9.2	11.3
139½	66	Rmeal	135½		4.2	15.8
114½	76½	Roberted	90	+ 2	0.9	16.4
128½	91½	Rugby Group	123	+ 1	3.9	22.8
115	93½	Russell (A)	103½		3.4	15.6
245½	241½	SIG†	235½	- 1½	3.0	15.6
3½	1½	STP	2½	- ½		
237½	211½	Sharpe & Fisher	227½		3.3	14.7
30½	5½	Spring Ram	10½			
187½	159½	Streamline Hldg	178½		6.1	10.8
134	93½	Tarmac†	133½	+ ½	5.1	16.9
140	103	Tilbury	107½		5.9	10.2
570	436½	Travis Perkins†	567½	- 9	2.3	19.9
60½	34½	Tudor†	60		5.6	11.9
517	422½	Wolseley	509	+ 7	2.6	16.8

ENGINEERING

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492½	370	AMI	426	+ 1	2.6	13.9
40	19½	ASW	33½			
378	228	Alumasc†	315		3.4	12.5
151	107	Alvis	151	.	2.7	27.1
232½	139½	Ash & Lacy†	189½		6.5	8.3
109½	95½	Ayrshire Metal	100½		6.8	5.5
437½	314	BBA†	429	+ 7	2.0	21.5
125½	79½	BM	90½		10.4	6.6
102	54½	Babcock	99½		1.5	
11½	7½	Bailey (CH)	8½		3.9	
132½	76	Barnes (Charles)	118	- 7½	3.2	13.6
44½	29½	Beaufort	29½	..	3.4	13.8
63½	37½	Benson Group	43½		4.3	10.3
178½	128	Beresford Ind	175		3.6	24.5
1065½	680	Bodycote	1054	+ 46½	1.0	28.2
49½	37½	Booth Inds	46	- ½		
28½	18	Bracmart	20½	+ ½	5.5	7.8
175	90	Brdon	174		3.2	29.4
1704	1189½	Br Aerospace†	1692½	- 2½	1.3	20.8
193½	133½	Br Steel	178	- 3½	7.0	12.0
141½	101½	Brooke Tool	128½		3.5	8.4
37½	11½	Bursal	15½	- ½	4.0	
122½	72½	Bullough	100		7.0	17.5
35	2	Cakia	27½	+ ½	5.9	
217½	174½	Carclo Eng	216½	- 1	6.2	14.0
297½	214½	Castings	216½		2.9	13.1
170	130	Chamberlin Hill	165		6.1	8.9
957½	715	Cookson†	836	+ 1½	4.3	12.1
295	76½	Cheming	139½	+ 4½	8.7	.
397	273	Clyde Blowers	382½	+ 2½	3.3	26.3
838½	551½	Cobham	827½	+ 3	1.7	25.7
486	295	Cohen (A)	295			
185	133½	Concentric	130	+ ½	6.8	11.7
220	179	Davd Brown	196½		5.3	11.2
396	237	ES	280		6.2	9.5
24½	6½	Elsco	18½		1.7	
82½	57½	Elliott (B)	75½	+ 4	5.0	21.8
119½	96½	Expamet	115		3.9	12.9
211½	140	FKI	208	+ 3	3.2	22.6
132½	145½	Fenner	129		2.7	24.3
7½	1½	Ferrum	2		..	22.7
62½	30½	Firth Hldgs	32½	.	1.0	12.0
109½	96	Firth Rixson	107½	- ½	3.1	18.2
150½	110½	Flare	115	+ ½	1.1	10.1
121	92	GEI Intl	119½	- ½	4.7	12.2

CHEMICALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
173½	142	Allbright & Wly	170	+ 2½	4.8	17.7
137	109½	Allied Colloids	124	- ½	3.2	18.4
135	115	Amber Ind	116		6.2	10.6
117½	91½	Amberley Gp	109½	- ½	1.9	20.1
3	0½	Angle Utd	1½			
2531½	2112½	BASF DM	2271½	- 37½	2.6	
1135	854½	BOC	1073	- 7½	3.2	18.8
360	245	BTP	347	- 2½	4.2	17.7
2259½	2286½	Bayer DM50	2537½	+ 53½	2.3	

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
90½	68½	INVESCO Korea	69½	- 1	.	...
47	35½	INVESCO Tokyo	37½	- 1		
125½	80½	J Fry 2nd Ut	126	+ 1½	7.5	17.1
119	82½	J Fry Euro Ut	118½	..	5.7	25.8
165½	119	JF Fledg Jap	123½	- 1½		
115	92½	Jupiter Ex Inc	114½	+ ½	8.6	11.3
16½	3½	Jupiter Ex Incwt	16	+ 1		
89	76½	Jupiter Gad Cap	88½	+ 1½	11.0	10.9
41	31	Jupiter Gad Plo	41	+ ½		..
139½	120½	Jupiter Intl Gth	134½		3.6	
392	293	Klnwt Chrl	391½	+ 2	1.9	58.4
118½	96½	Klnwt E Mkt	113½	+ ½		..
173	153½	Klnwt End	173	+ ½		
109	74	Klnwt H Inct	108		12.5	
365	261	Klnwt O'seas†	361	- 1	1.4	70.0
182½	151½	Klnwt Smlr†	174	+ 1½	2.6	46.5
397	254½	Korea—Euro†	270½	- ½	0.5	
173½	59½	Latin American	165	+ 4½		
1136½	902½	Law Debenture	1124½	+ 3½	3.1	34.1
119½	103½	Ldn Gif Opp	119½	+ 2		
133	103½	Lloyds Sm Cap	127			
25½	17½	Lloyds Sm Dwt	20		35.3	5.0
152½	129	Lloyds Sm Ptg†	146½		3.6	
178½	157½	Lon & Laurence†	175½	+ 2	4.6	38.2

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1122½	886	Bowater	910	+ 4	2.9	20.3
1700	1400	Euromoney Pb	1700		3.7	21.2
49	37	Faldri	47½	..	1.6	11.8
603½	582½	Flextech	590	- 7½	..	.
232½	190½	GGT Group†	190½	- 1	4.1	.
232½	167½	GWR Gp	193½	+ 4½	1.8	31.5
381½	285½	Gestetner Group†	371½		2.4	
36	24½	Goodhead	35½	...	1.4	18.2
319½	243½	Grampian	314½		2.9	21.7
345	254	HIT Entera	312½	..	0.2	46.4
287½	237½	Haynes Pub†	260		5.0	11.6
22½	6½	Highbury Hse	10			
230	180	Hodder H'line	222½		3.8	19.0
285	243	Home Counties†	252	...	2.9	24.5
418	295	IBC†	407½	..	3.0	14.2
26½	18½	Incepta	20½			22.3
407½	297½	Independent†	357½		2.4	24.5
145	95	Interacope	125		4.0	18.0
229½	172½	Johnston Press	221½	..	1.5	20.3
45	25	Lopex†	34	..	3.7	9.1
247½	140	Lwsb#	215			
327½	272½	Maiden	312½	+ 5	2.3	19.0
45½	26½	MediaKey	43	..	3.4	18.3
1365	950	Metal Bulletin	1145	..	2.3	32.7

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

DISTRIBUTORS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
425	425	Mitel	425			
247	145	Nelmsck Tech	159	+ ½	0.8	.
458	302	Oxford Instr	418½		2.2	13.5
237½	41½	Pace Micro	57½	+ 2	6.1	9.8
99	37½	Peck	40		8.4	12.4
5466½	2338½	Philips Lmp nv	5465½	+ 131½	0.9	.
185½	142½	Plasmec†	153½	- 2½	5.3	9.1
238½	33½	Plasmon	41	+ 1½	4.6	3.9
266	209½	Pressac	258	- 4½	1.9	20.6
48	31	Prestwich	35	+ 1	3.6	
512½	276	Psion†	480½	- 3½	0.6	38.0
301½	215	Racal Elect	259	+ 5½	2.9	31.2
135½	99½	Raisman	111½		3.4	18.0
380	258	Renishaw	362½	+ 2½	3.0	.
7½	1½	Rodime	2			
218½	149½	Roxboro†	214½	+ 2	4.0	13.3
233½	165½	SDX Bus Sys	191½	+ 6½	1.4	25.0
411½	305	Senomect	311		3.5	17.3
83½	57½	Siltronines	60½	+ ½	2.9	16.7
5893½	3677½	TDK	5740½	- 153½	0.4	
108	66½	TGI	74	+ ½	5.9	7.9
125½	91	TLG	115		4.7	14.3
34½	7	Tadpole Tech	9½	..		
80	49½	Telemetrix	80	+ 4½	2.3	34.6
307½	175	Telspec	227½	+ 12½		
159	125½	Thorpe FW	157½	- 1½	3.6	.
72½	27½	Total Systems	60½		3.6	21.9
287	70	Tunstall	91	+ 14½	7.1	6.3
58½	26½	Verdy	57½	+ ½	0.2	
196½	83½	Vero†	114½	- 3	6.3	9.0
96	56½	Virtuo Technology	86	+ 1		
530	402	Volex	527½	.	5.8	15.4
15½	10½	Wolsbourne#	10½			

MEDIA

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

MINING

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

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Check the numbers on your Portfolio card and find your eight stocks in the Portfolio panel below. In the column provided next to your eight shares enter the share movements as published on this page. Ignore fractions, ie enter 16½ as 16 (the symbol ... means no change). After listing the price changes of your eight shares, add or subtract as appropriate to find your total which can be plus or minus. If your overall total matches exactly the points required for the daily dividend you win or share the £4,000 daily prize.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Debenham T	Property	
2	Devro	Food Man	
3	LSH	Property	
4	Tibbet & Brit	Transport	
5	Limelight	Ret Gen	
6	Kwik-Fit	Distrib's	
7	Ruberoid	Bld Mats	
8	Baldwin	Leisure	
9	Britannic	Insurance	
10	Grainger	Property	
11	LucasVarity	Eng, Veh	
12	T & N	Eng, Veh	
13	Hanson	Bld Mats	
14	Elsevier	Media	
15	Regent Inns	Breweries	
16	SEC Group	Oth Fin	
17	Fairey Group	Electronic	
18	Vodafone	Telecomms	
19	Brandon Hire	Bld & Cons	
20	TeleWest	Telecomms	
21	Breedon PLC	Bld Mats	
22	Laporte	Chemicals	
23	FKI	Engin'ing	
24	VTR	Media	
25	Critchley	Electronic	
26	UniChem	Healthcare	
27	Viglen Tech	Electronic	
28	Elliott (B)	Engin'ing	
29	Lavendon	Sup Serv	
30	BWD	Oth Fin	
31	Perpetual	Oth Fin	
32	Smurfit (Jeff)	Print Pap	
33	Grosvenor	Breweries	
34	Wickes	Ret Gen	
35	Nthn Ireland	Electy	
36	NFC	Transport	
37	Wagon Ind	Engin'ing	
38	Colt Telecom	Telecomms	
39	Thorn	Ret Gen	
40	CMG	Sup Serv	
41	Vaux Group	Breweries	
42	SFI	Breweries	
43	Man ED & F	Oth Fin	
44	Cobham	Engin'ing	

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Portfolio

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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Weekly accumulator total

There were no winners of the £2,000 prize yesterday. Today's prize is now worth £4,000.

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هكذا من الإصل

Unilever to sell coffee business

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and consumer products group, has put its Australian and New Zealand coffee business, worth A$90 million (£41 million), up for sale.

The divisions are being sold as a single unit to concentrate on ice cream and tea operations. The divisions, which are profitable, came as part of the Bushells acquisition made nearly ten years ago, and they employ 231 people in Australia and 43 in New Zealand.

The brands being sold include Robert Timms, Pablo and Faggs and will be sold as a going concern.

B&R wins

Shell Expro, a joint venture between Royal/Dutch Shell and Exxon, has awarded a £20 million contract to Brown and Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton, the US energy and engineering group, to serve Shell's offshore installations. The five-year contract covers the management and operations at the Altens operation and Torry Marine bases in Aberdeen.

Buying back

Care First, the healthcare group, is to buy back up to 8.44 million shares, or 5 per cent. They may be purchased at a maximum price of not more than 5 per cent above the average middle market quotation for the five business days before the deal is done.

R-R contract

Reyrolle Projects, Rolls-Royce's Malaysian joint venture, has won a £15 million contract to build two new substations and extend two others in the Malaysian state of Sabah.

Tool deal

Vibroplant has bought Domindo Tool Hire from Rentokil Initial for £1.1 million cash.

Large firms 'worst for delaying payments'

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

FEWER than two out of ten UK companies pay their bills on time and large businesses are the worst offenders for slow payment.

Figures from a Dun & Bradstreet survey of more than 86,600 companies showing that 81.7 per cent of business runs up overdue accounts, come as the Government closes its Green Paper consultations on late payment today. Fewer than 10 per cent of large companies pay bills within pre-arranged terms, and among large manufacturers, only 6.6 per cent make prompt payment, according to the study.

Philip Mellor, senior analyst at Dun & Bradstreet, said: "With only two out of ten businesses paying their bills on time, we feel that these figures fully support our case for legislation in favour of a statutory right to interest on late payment. It is clear that voluntary measures which have been introduced over the past ten years have had no effect on changing the business culture."

The Government has set out plans to "end the culture of late payment" as well as plans to enable small companies to claim interest payment penalties from those that do not pay on time. Legislation is expected next summer.

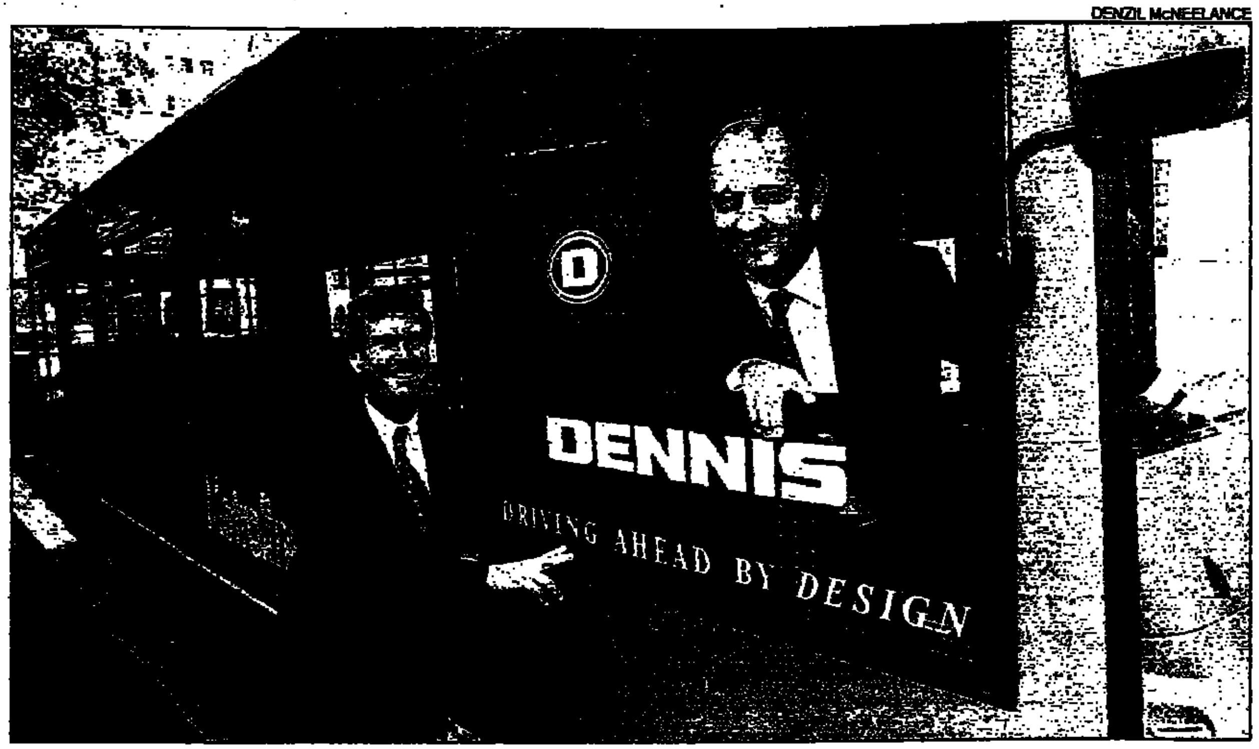
But the plans laid out in the Green Paper launched by Barbara Roche, the Industry Minister with responsibility for small business, have been roundly criticised by business groups such as the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors. They claim that a statutory right to interest will not reverse the practice of poor payment and will not help the cashflow of companies that are owed payment.

According to Dun & Bradstreet, 23.2 per cent of small businesses pay on time, while 13.8 per cent of medium-sized companies make prompt payment and only 9.7 per cent of large companies meet bill deadlines.

On very late payment, 9.5 per cent of small businesses pay more than a month after they should have done. For large businesses the figure is 8.1 per cent and for medium-sized companies the rate is 4.2 per cent.

The best payers are in financial services, in which some 31.6 per cent of companies settle accounts on time. The worst performers are manufacturers, with a prompt payment rate of only 14 per cent.

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Brendon Geary, left, finance director, and Stephen Burton will provide London's first double-deckers since privatisation

Trinity wins £12m bus order

TRINITY HOLDINGS, the maker and exporter of specialised vehicles, has won a £12 million order for double-decker London buses from Stagecoach, the transport group (Fraser Nelson writes).

The 100 Dennis Dart vehicles will be the first new double-deckers to be bought for the capital since privatisation of its bus services.

Trinity made more than 1,000 buses and fire engines in the six months to July 31, helping its interim pre-tax profits to rise to £9.13 million, from £8.06 million. Earnings per share rose to 10.8p (9.7p), and an interim dividend of 3.05p (2.8p) is due to be paid on January 30.

Trinity spent £500,000 restructuring its assembly plant at Warwick, absorbing all charges in the first half. A £3.7 million extension of its Guildford plant, increasing capacity by 25 per cent, is due for completion within two months. The company intends to rename itself Dennis Group.

Stephen Burton, chief executive, said the UK bus market is 20 per cent bigger than last year, adding £25 million to Trinity's order book, offsetting problems posed by sterling's strength. The shares rose 6½p to 302½p.

Energy group to raise £12m

By George Sivell

INTERNATIONAL Energy Group, which has operations in the Channel Islands, Portugal, the Isle of Man and Britain, is to raise £12.38 million in a placing and a one-for-four open offer to shareholders.

The company will use the proceeds to finance capital expenditure for the development of its British natural gas business.

The company said that trading for the current year is in line with expectations, with the costs associated with the development of the British natural gas business offset by profits arising from non-core property sales. It added that the development of its UK natural gas business is "accelerating at a faster rate than initially expected".

In the six months to June 30, pre-tax profits rose 35 per cent, to £5.18 million, on sales of £42.6 million (£38.8 million). Earnings per share rose from 5.61p to 7.68p. The interim dividend rises from 1.16p to 1.20p.

Swedish bank bids £1.38bn for insurer

By Our City Staff

SKANDINAVISKA Enskilda Banken, the Swedish bank, bid 16.8 billion Swedish crowns (£1.38 billion) for Trygg-Hansa, the insurance company, yesterday.

SE-banken bid 244 Swedish crowns a share and made an alternative bid of 13 A shares of the proposed new entity for every five Trygg-Hansa shares. The cash offer amounts to a premium of 30 per cent and the share offer one of 27 per cent over the last ten days of trading.

The directors of Trygg Foundation, the largest single shareholder, with 23.7 per cent of the shares and 39.4 per cent of the votes, have agreed to accept the share offer.

The two companies estimate that the takeover will make possible annual synergy gains of the order of 775 million Swedish crowns at the pre-tax level within five years.

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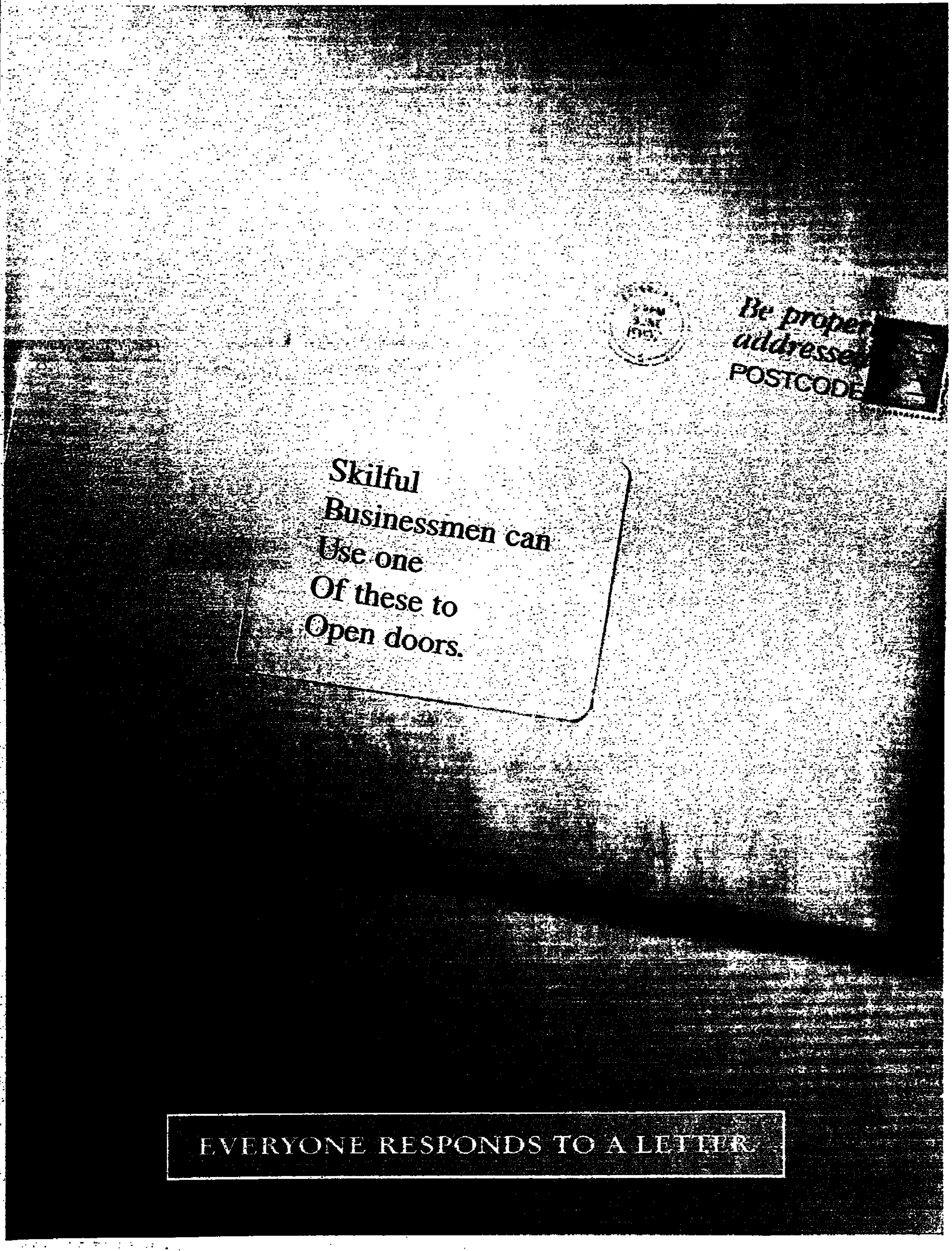

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	140.90	150.15†	+ 0.43	
UK NAV to Jun 20	136.83	136.83		
UK Equity Safeguard	110.79	118.48	+ 0.30	2.47
Do NAV to Sep 19	106.93	106.93		
Cash	958.15	962.94†		5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	384.60	409.10†	+ 9.30	1.74
British Growth	87.08	93.10	+ 1.10	1.43
UK Small Cos	77.50	82.88†	+ 0.40	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	100.07	107.02	+ 0.80	2.11
Geared UK Index	2442.24	2578.21†	+61.00	5.25
Income Funds				
UK Equity Inc #	118.67	126.91†	+ 2.10	4.24
Corp Bd	81.07	83.75	+ 0.32	
Monthly Inc	43.94	46.84†	+ 0.60	8.18
International Funds				
American Gen	304.40	322.10	+ 2.30	...
American Strat	280.14	299.61	- 0.40	
US UK Index	2344.01	2489.79†	+ 7.00	4.00
European Gen	347.80	367.90	+ 6.40	
European Strat	150.75	161.22	+ 1.80	
Japan Gen	128.70	137.30	- 1.40	
Asia Pacific	90.33	96.52†	- 0.04	
Pacific Strat	148.74	159.07	+ 1.60	
Greater China	293.76	314.18	- 0.30	
Latin America	133.54	142.81	+ 2.70	
Intl Growth	187.03	200.02	- 1.50	
Balanced Exempt	160.50	166.40		
Global Strategy	52.65	56.30	+ 0.51	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	873.30	929.10	+ 6.90	2.24
General Inc	711.70	757.20	+ 5.70	2.24
UK Growth Acc	603.50	642.10	+ 4.10	2.09
UK Growth Inc	385.90	410.60	+ 2.70	2.09
Higher Inc Acc #	1072.20	1140.70	+ 9.50	4.32
Higher Inc Inc #	562.40	598.40	+ 5.00	4.32
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	230.60	243.40	+ 0.20	5.29
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	96.03	101.48	+ 0.10	5.29
Nth America	449.50	478.20	- 2.10	
Europe	468.40	498.40	+ 3.50	0.01
Brit Excell	120.20	127.90	+ 0.90	2.24
Brit Fndmtls Acc	145.70	155.00	+ 1.30	4.20
Brit Fndmtls Inc	93.46	99.43	+ 0.76	4.20
Global Opps	121.00	128.80	- 0.30	
Balanced Acc	76.09	80.95	+ 0.34	2.07
Balanced Inc	70.33	74.82	+ 0.32	2.07
Japan Acc	40.03	42.59	- 0.62	
Pac Basin Acc	379.90	404.20	+ 0.30	1.29
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	141.90	150.60†	+ 1.00	6.06
High Inc Equity	226.30	242.00†	+ 4.20	4.17
Worldwide Bond	274.90	291.50	+ 0.80	3.39
American Growth	533.70	570.30	+ 4.50	0.23
Asian Pacific	319.30	341.50	- 0.60	0.40
Assets & Earnings	354.40	379.00	+ 6.00	2.47
Euro Capital Acc	254.00	271.70	- 3.00	0.73
Extra Inc	44.25	47.07†	- 0.37	8.84
General	326.70	347.50	- 8.10	2.82

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Fxd Int Sec Inc	164.22	164.88	+ 1.70	8.67
Fxd Int Sec Acc	171.86	172.34	+ 1.76	
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	922.17	938.11	+10.17	3.72
Investment Acc	4391.91	4458.29	+48.39	
Fixed Int Inc	134.27	134.81	+ 0.74	8.60
Fixed Int Acc	261.07	262.17	+ 1.45	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	95.07	99.98†		5.01
Beck Bio-Tech	44.87	49.53	- 0.65	
Acorn Ethical Tst	221.86	232.97		0.40
City Fin Accum	93.52	98.20		1.72
City Fin Intl	97.71	102.60		0.06
Friars Hse Cap	367.87	391.35		1.59
Buckley Wrld Grth	155.95	165.31†		
Straw Utilities	83.12	84.90	+ 1.57	4.10
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	64.82	68.77	+ 0.46	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	102.00	108.51	+ 0.58	
Dragon Growth	68.23	70.83	- 0.12	0.56
Equity High Inc	118.04	122.79†	+ 0.96	3.29
-do- Accum	174.21	184.34	+ 1.45	3.29
Extra Income Inc	28.58	30.08†	+ 0.15	6.89
Extra Income Acc	33.22	34.96	+ 0.17	6.89
European Gwth	85.68	90.88	+ 0.60	
Evergreen	37.31	38.90	+ 0.13	
General Equity	136.15	143.69	+ 0.89	2.36
Japan Growth	39.22	41.72	- 0.81	
Pelegate Gwth	81.26	85.98	+ 0.31	1.88
Pel Sm Cos Inc	42.01	44.45	+ 0.09	1.42
-do- Accum	44.98	47.61	+ 0.10	1.42
Retirement Inc #	34.50	36.70	+ 0.30	5.12
Special Sits	55.15	59.30	+ 0.16	3.00
UK & Overseas	73.65	77.94	+ 0.33	0.50
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	82.10	86.56	+ 0.52	3.45
Capital	103.37	107.67	+ 0.83	1.85
High Income	56.54	58.89	+ 0.32	6.40
Top 50	74.64	77.75	+ 0.52	1.88
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	226.39	235.85†	+ 1.92	4.09
Long Gilt	49.58	51.62†	+ 0.36	5.33
Monthly Inc Plus	57.21	59.60†	+ 0.58	7.52
Preference Share	54.11	56.37†	+ 0.52	6.92
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	164.29	171.15†	+ 1.18	5.23
Managed Fund	88.34	92.03†	+ 0.35	2.46
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	52.68	54.88	+ 0.07	1.55
-do- Accum	63.00	65.63	+ 0.09	1.55
UK & General	125.82	131.08†	+ 0.96	2.14

	Sell	Buy
FP Equity Dist	581.20	619.90
-do- Accum	1311.00	1398.00
FP Exmt Gilt	394.00	420.20
-do- Accum	431.60	460.30
FP Intl Bond	57.79	61.15
FP Intl Gth Dist	45.95	49.02
-do- Accum	67.51	72.01
FP Pac Basin Acc	218.40	230.80†
FP Income #	72.88	77.52
-do- Accum #	263.70	281.20
FP Jap Smlr Cos	196.20	209.20
FP Monthly Dist #	86.80	92.58†
FP Stlg Deposit	100.00	100.00†
FP Tokyo	75.23	80.24
FP US Focus	53.92	57.51†
FP UK Growth	256.00	273.00
-do- Accum	527.00	562.10
Stewardship Dist	481.40	513.40
-do- Accum	612.30	653.10
Stewdship Inc Dist #	80.58	85.95
-do- Accum #	114.90	122.50
N Am Stshp Dist	167.60	178.50
-do- Accum	180.40	192.10
FP Exempt Trust		
Inst Ethical In #	126.00	126.60
Inst Ethical Ac #	127.40	128.00
FP Managed Portfolio Service		
Capital Gwth Acc	151.50	161.50
Opps Cap Gth Acc	154.60	164.40
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	135.00	143.60
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	146.20	155.50
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	141.00	150.60
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	154.90	164.70
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD		
0345 581 106/7		
GANDA	380.10	403.30
Cash	49.61	50.36
Growth Portfolio	106.00	112.60
Income Portfolio	89.32	94.77
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD		
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431		
American Smlr Cos	279.20	298.30
European Gth	916.60	972.70
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	61.04	64.62†
-do- Accum	71.31	75.48
High Yield #	54.43	57.52
-do- Accum #	63.84	67.46
Income Inc	231.20	247.30†
-do- Accum	273.10	292.10
Intl Growth	440.80	467.50
Intl Income	116.40	123.20
Japan Growth	420.80	445.70
Orient Acc	197.40	210.80
UK General Inc	237.20	253.30
UK General Acc	430.10	459.40
UK Sm Cos Div Acc	66.56	71.19
UK Spec Sits	122.00	130.50
US Growth	245.30	259.40
Wrlde Spec Sits	205.00	218.10

GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Growth	9.99	10.60	- 0.01	0.44
Emg Mkts Gwth	90.17	95.67	+ 0.68	..
Japan Growth	50.09	53.76	- 0.42	..
Dealing: 01277 843626				
Gartm Port Inc	84.05	88.88†	+ 0.36	0.59
Gartm Port Acc	85.86	90.79†	+ 0.37	0.59
Inc Port Inc	76.45	80.69	+ 0.31	3.38
Inc Port Acc	87.65	92.52	+ 0.36	3.27
Wrldw Port	67.61	71.50	+ 0.21	..
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01222 448412 Dealing: 01222 683512				
Equity Dist @	755.90	755.90	+ 4.60	1.95
-do- Accum @	1599.00	1599.00	+10.00	1.95
Equity Income #	126.10	128.10†	+ 0.80	4.29
UK Tactical Allocn @	87.77	87.77†	+ 0.58	4.82
European @	189.00	189.00†	+ 1.70	0.15
Far Eastern @	212.30	212.30†	- 2.80	
Fixed Interest @	58.85	58.63†	+ 0.14	6.97
Gilt @	99.66	99.66	+ 0.28	5.91
Global Growth @	91.98	91.98	+ 0.23	..
Intl Bond @	49.76	49.76†	- 0.01	5.35
Japanese @	62.49	62.49	- 0.55	..
North American @	291.70	291.70	+ 1.70	..
Pacific Growth @	115.40	115.40†	- 0.30	0.35
Pacific Index @	44.34	44.34†	+ 0.03	2.23
UK Index @	99.76	99.76	+ 0.62	2.46
UK Recovery @	140.30	140.30	+ 0.90	1.42
UK Smaller Cos @	177.10	177.10†	+ 0.70	1.09
US Index @	113.90	113.90	+ 0.80	0.75
European Index @	119.80	119.80†	+ 1.00	1.01
Japan Index @	31.77	31.77	- 0.54	
Worldwide @	117.50	117.50	+ 0.50	0.94

LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Leaders	297.59	316.59†	+ 2.37	0.85
PMM Mg Bal Gth	79.40	82.67†	+ 0.65	0.19
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	359.40	378.80	+3.180	.
-do- Accum	384.30	405.00	+3.200	.
American Opps	153.30	162.40	+1.080	
-do- Accum	156.20	164.40	+1.000	
British Blue Chip	125.60	133.30†	+1.900	2.25
-do- Accum	166.60	176.80†	+2.400	2.25
Cash	101.10	101.10	.	6.59
-do- Accum	155.20	155.20	+0.100	6.59
Emerging Mkts	165.70	178.20	+1.800	0.17
-do- Accum	168.10	180.70	+1.700	0.17
European Growth	428.50	453.20	+5.700	0.12
-do- Accum	467.70	494.70	+6.300	0.12
European Income	106.10	112.30	+1.300	3.61
-do- Accum	159.80	169.20	+1.900	3.61
General	740.30	787.20†	+11.40	2.04
-do- Accum	1544.00	1642.00†	+24.00	2.04
Global Bond	128.80	135.40†		4.23
-do- Accum	179.20	188.40†	+0.100	4.23
Gold & General	168.59	180.60	+0.300	0.41
-do- Accum	174.40	186.90	+0.200	0.41
Govt Securities	101.10	104.20	+0.400	5.45
-do- Accum	222.50	229.30	+0.800	5.45
High Yield Bd	109.50	112.20†	+0.700	6.09
-do- Accum	122.80	125.80†	+0.700	6.09
Income	245.20	260.80	+3.500	3.45
-do- Accum	427.20	447.50	+6.000	3.45
Inc Portfolio #	131.80	139.70†	+1.500	4.67
-do- Accum #	150.20	158.10†	+1.500	4.67
Intl Opps	680.60	725.50	+2.900	0.68
-do- Accum	934.70	985.80	+4.100	0.68

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Reuters to expand customer base through the Internet

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

REUTERS, the international information and news agency group, plans to counter any possible threat from online services by using Internet technology to reach a wider range of customers.

The group has launched a range of new products including Reuters Investor, a system that will allow private investors to get information for their own *personal* investments through bank websites.

ABN Amro in The Netherlands and Direkt Anlage, a subsidiary of Bayerische Hypo Bank in Germany, have *already* begun offering the service to their customers on a Reuters-operated public website. Private investors can also use the subscription service to deal in shares. Twelve further pilot trials are now running within institutions in six other European countries, including six British banks.

Jean-Claude Marchand, Reuters president for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, said the company, noted for its sophisticated dealing systems for a relatively small number of market professionals, hoped to apply Internet technologies to reach millions. "There are some 100,000 bank branches in Europe with a need to service customers with timely and accessible information," Mr Marchand said. Reuters estimates the number of active private investors in Europe will rise from about 600,000 now to around two million by the year 2001.

Reuters will charge banks between $15 (£9) and $20 a month per user, depending on content, but the banks may charge a lower price or none at all for their best private investor customers.

Two other new services, Reuters Markets Monitor and Reuters Markets View, offer packages of data, news and historic information for use on bank intranets — or private internal networks. The Markets Monitor, which will have real-time information, will cost around $200 per user per month. The Markets View, based more on historic information, will cost around $40. More Reuters Internet and intranet products were on the way.

The core of the Reuters business, which had £2.9 billion revenue and £701 million profit in 1996, will continue to be the 400,000 screens in financial institutions and dealing rooms. But increasingly the company will use Internet technology to extend its reach to banks and corporations as well as private investors.

Simon Thomson, Reuters marketing director for Europe, Middle East and Africa, said: "What we are now doing is launching products that take us off the trading floor to reach areas we have not been able to reach in the past."

Mr Marchand said he did not see any threat to Reuters from the public Internet because people will continue to want the high quality information that only organisations such as Reuters could provide.

Football clubs drift offside with heavy full-year losses

BY CHRIS AYRES

SHEFFIELD UNITED and Loftus Road, the football club owners, both paid heavy financial penalties for failing to get their teams into the Premier League last season.

Sheffield, which has seen its share price more than halve to 53½p since it floated, yesterday revealed that its pre-tax profits of £59,000 had turned into losses of £5.9 million in the year to June 30. Turnover was £5.1 million, up 8 per cent from £4.8 million.

Loftus Road, which is chaired by Chris Wright and combines Queens Park Rangers and Wasps, the rugby club, made a £7.1 million pre-tax loss in its first year as a public company. Its share price has also dived, from a high of 106½p in January to yesterday's price of 44p.

Charles Green, chief executive of Sheffield, admitted that the shares had been overpriced at more than 100p. "What people must remember is that 78 per cent of our share price is supported by our business assets, and we have virtually no debt."

Sheffield's losses per share grew from 0.51p to 20.08p, while Loftus Road's losses *stood at 20.1p.* Neither company will pay a dividend.

Loftus Road yesterday said it had appointed Stephen Oakley as its new chief executive, and that Clive Berlin and Geoff Huckstep, heads of QPR and Wasps repectively, would stand down.

☐ Silver Shield, the replacement windscreens supplier that recently bought Swansea City Football Club, has appointed Peter Day as chief executive of its sports and leisure division.

Chris Wright, chairman of Loftus Road, saw the company make losses in its first year

Accounts affair still dogs Burn Stewart

BY DOMINIC WALSH

BURN STEWART Distillers, the Scotch whisky producer, continues to suffer a hangover from last year's accounting problems. Its shares, trading at around 94p before the matter came to light, fell another 2½p to 44p yesterday in spite of a sharp jump in the company's annual profits.

The accounting change insisted on by Price Waterhouse, the company's auditor, forced Burn Stewart to exclude £5.1 million of revenue and £2.3 million of profit from last year's figures. Although much of that has now been recovered, there is a £775,000 provision. Bill Thornton, chairman, admitted yesterday: "This has quite badly damaged our reputation."

At the time of the debacle, it was suggested that Price Waterhouse would probably be dumped, but Ian Bankier, managing director, said that shareholders had decided that the firm should be retained. He admitted, however, that the relationship remained strained.

The inclusion of the excluded revenue pushed annual *turnover up by 29 per cent to* £70 million, while the inclusion of £1.4 million of profit helped pre-tax profits to rise from £1.01 million to £3.56 million.

Mr Thornton said that although there was evidence of higher prices, profits remained under pressure and gross margins had remained static at 24.5 per cent.

Earnings per share rose from 2.94p to 3.32p. A final dividend of 1.7p makes an unchanged year's total of 3.4p.

Alex Kreymer sent a chocolate and a note to welcome "transitioned" recruits

The God Dome team shows way for public sector

Jason Nissé looks at EDS, the American data company aiding Hector the inspector

If you were casting a baddie in a futuristic thriller, you could do worse than base him on Alex Kreymer. With his cropped hair, pointy ears and accent floating somewhere between Moscow and Miami, he is a million light-years from Hector the tax inspector, the bowler-hatted figure that the Inland Revenue uses to promote self-assessment. However, he is in charge of the £1.6 billion contract for data processing that the Revenue handed to EDS, the US information technology giant.

The ten-year deal is at a critical point. Originally it was worth only £1 billion, on the basis of declining payments to EDS as it saved more and more money for the Revenue. However, the contract was controversially upped to £1.6 billion when EDS persuaded the Revenue to let it take charge of back-office operations for self-assessment.

Some eight million self-assessment tax forms are involved, and EDS has had *up to 500 people working on* the project at any one time, and, according to Kreymer, has delivered all systems early — including a huge data warehouse that lets tax inspectors browse through tax forms to pick up cheats and an Intranet system to link the dozens of tax offices and thousands of inspectors.

If that were not enough pressure for Kreymer and his team, the National Audit *Office is to publish* a report on the EDS contract this month. Awarded when Conservative privatisation was at its zenith, the deal included the transfer of 2,300 Revenue technical staff, along with their offices in Telford, Woking and Basingstoke. This was a model for "outsourcing" that the Tories planned for big areas of the public sector, notably through the Change *programme that sought to privatise* much of the Department of Social Security.

When the Labour Party came to power, all bets were off. In opposition, Labour had been a stern critic of EDS and had roasted the firm at a session of the Commons Public Accounts Committee.

However, as in many areas, Labour has changed its attitude as power has become a reality. EDS has recently won a share of the contract for ticketing on London Transport, work to computerise an element of air traffic control and part of a DSS consultancy agreement. It is confident of winning more business — but there is a problem. Faced by poor financial results in the US, the headquarters in Plano, Texas (known as the "God Dome" to EDS insiders) demanded a 10 per cent cut in the headcount across the board.

Kreymer has tried to insulate the Revenue team from much of this — though the DSS operation is facing up to 200 job cuts with the closure of the Swindon processing centre that EDS took over in a similar outsourcing deal. However, up to a quarter of the 2,300 Revenue staff put into EDS *no longer work on Revenue* projects. Not all have left EDS. Doug Topple, who had been 36 years with the Revenue, spent a year on EDS's logistics operation for the Royal Navy and now heads an EDS team running cheque processing for the Royal Bank of Scotland. Others are working in Canada, Australia and Derby, where EDS has a big project *with Rolls-Royce.*

The days of making employees shave off their beards have gone

Many of the staff had been with the Revenue for decades. Alan Bell, who is now in charge of community affairs for the whole of EDS in the UK, began working as a tax inspector in Bradford in 1965. Liz Hume, EDS's human resources manager, had been with the Revenue in Glasgow, London and Telford for 26 years. "I didn't want to move," she admits. "Then I became resigned to it, then I started to accept it and then I began to look forward to it."

The switch came in two tranches — the first in June 1994, and the second 18 months later. Revenue people found themselves working side by side with colleagues who had transferred to EDS. Many found the process frustrating, with those in the second tranche often feeling left behind. When the two sides came together, Kreymer sent each member of staff a chocolate with a note saying: "Welcome to EDS. Tranche one and tranche two are united again."

The process of bringing 2,300 staff into EDS is nothing new. Ever since General Motors bought the group from Ross Perot in the 1980s, EDS has become expert at "transitioning" people into the organisation.

The company is evangelical in its approach to "transitioning", wanting new employees not only to join it, but to love it and accept its philosophy. However, the days of making employees shave off their beards (a Perot obsession) have gone, as Paul Ballard, head of technical strategy for the self-assessment project, testifies. He had a *reputation for sporting* a beard and floral boots. Ballard tends to turn up in a business suit, but still likes to wear the boots occasionally to surprise people.

Joining EDS was not as much of an adverse cultural change as many of the Revenue staff had feared. Years of cost-cutting in the Civil Service had left many of them demotivated and concerned about their career *opportunities. "In the Revenue,* we were considered to be somewhere off at the side," says Sukhi Gill, a software specialist who was once a tax inspector in Bradford. "If you were a technical expert, there was a glass ceiling to promotion. But being in a technology company means there are lots of opportunities that I wouldn't have had otherwise."

EDS says that the project is going well, but is reluctant to divulge any figures. Technology consultancies are not averse to bearing a loss on a government project in order to win more work — as Andersen Consulting showed when it lost millions on computerising National Insurance records. How good a deal it is for the Revenue will emerge this month, but Nick Montagu, the Revenue's new chairman, has said that he is happy with EDS's work so far. The NAO report will be keenly read by ministers. It may set out the future for the running of many of Britain's public services.

Property experts fear 2000 'bomb'

BY SUSAN EMMETT

THE millennium timebomb, which threatens to cause chaos for computer systems, will also affect buildings and may lower their market value, according to Savills, the property consultant.

Offices, shopping centres and factories may be disrupted on January 1, 2000, if they have systems controlled by electronic chips, Savills said.

It says that security cameras, fire alarms, lifts, escalators, air-conditioning and heating systems and back-up systems such as generators may stop working, in the worst-case scenario, if they rely on time switches.

Most vulnerable are premises built in the last property boom because they are *unlikely* to have millennium-compliant controls.

James Marland, director of Savills, said: "Buildings that do not have a millennium certification not only risk disruption in January 2000, but could already be moving towards a disadvantage in terms of market value."

The potential cost in terms of lost business is also significant, experts say. It is estimated that, for a medium-size *office in the City, the loss on* one day's disruption may be about £100,000. A single day of lost production across the UK could amount to as much as £1.4 billion.

One UK company has already put aside more than £600,000 to tackle the problem.

Owners put up cash to save tin mine

THE Canadian owners of Britain's last tin mine have provided a cash injection in an attempt to help the fight against its closure.

The South Crofty mine near Redruth, Cornwall, is due to close within the next few months because of mounting financial losses caused by a drop in the price of tin on the international market.

Almost 40 workers have already been laid off from the total workforce of 270 but miners are hoping to persuade the Government to agree a rescue package.

The Crew Group, which owns South Crofty, has provided an undisclosed amount of cash to help to keep the mine working, David Giddings, managing director, said yesterday.

Clubhaus buys German golf club

BY DOMINIC WALSH

CLUBHAUS, the golf club operator demerged from Ex-Lands last year, yesterday added the Nippenburg Golf Club in Stuttgart, designed by Ryder Cup hero Bernhard Langer, to its rapidly expanding portfolio.

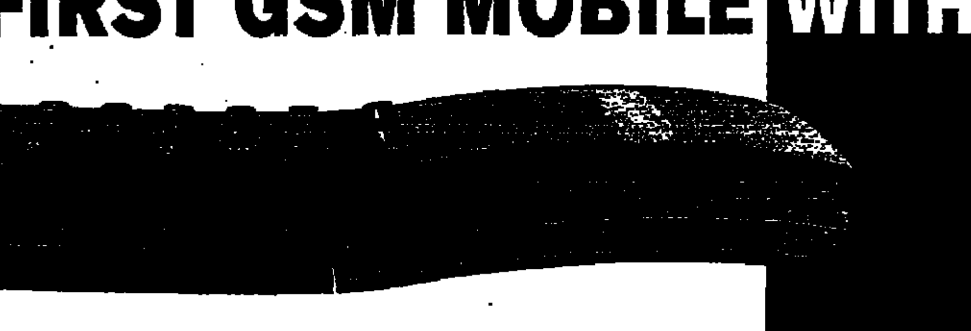
The company is paying a nominal sum to acquire a 75 per cent stake in the club's holding company and will take over management control of a course that has hosted the last three German Open championships.

News of the deal came as Clubhaus reported a near doubling of pre-tax profits to £1.4 million in the first half of 1997, on turnover up from £3.1 million to £7 million. During that period it splashed out *around £25 million* buying seven new clubs, taking its total to 15, and Charlie Parker, managing director, said it continued to seek further acquisitions, principally in the South East and in Germany.

In the first six months of the year some 155,000 rounds of golf were played on Clubhaus courses, and membership now stands at more than 10,000.

Sterling's strength against other European currencies produced an adverse foreign exchange movement on reserves of £3.4 million, and reduced operating profits by £42,000. Earnings per share rose from 0.93p to 2p, but there is no interim dividend.

Tempus, page 28



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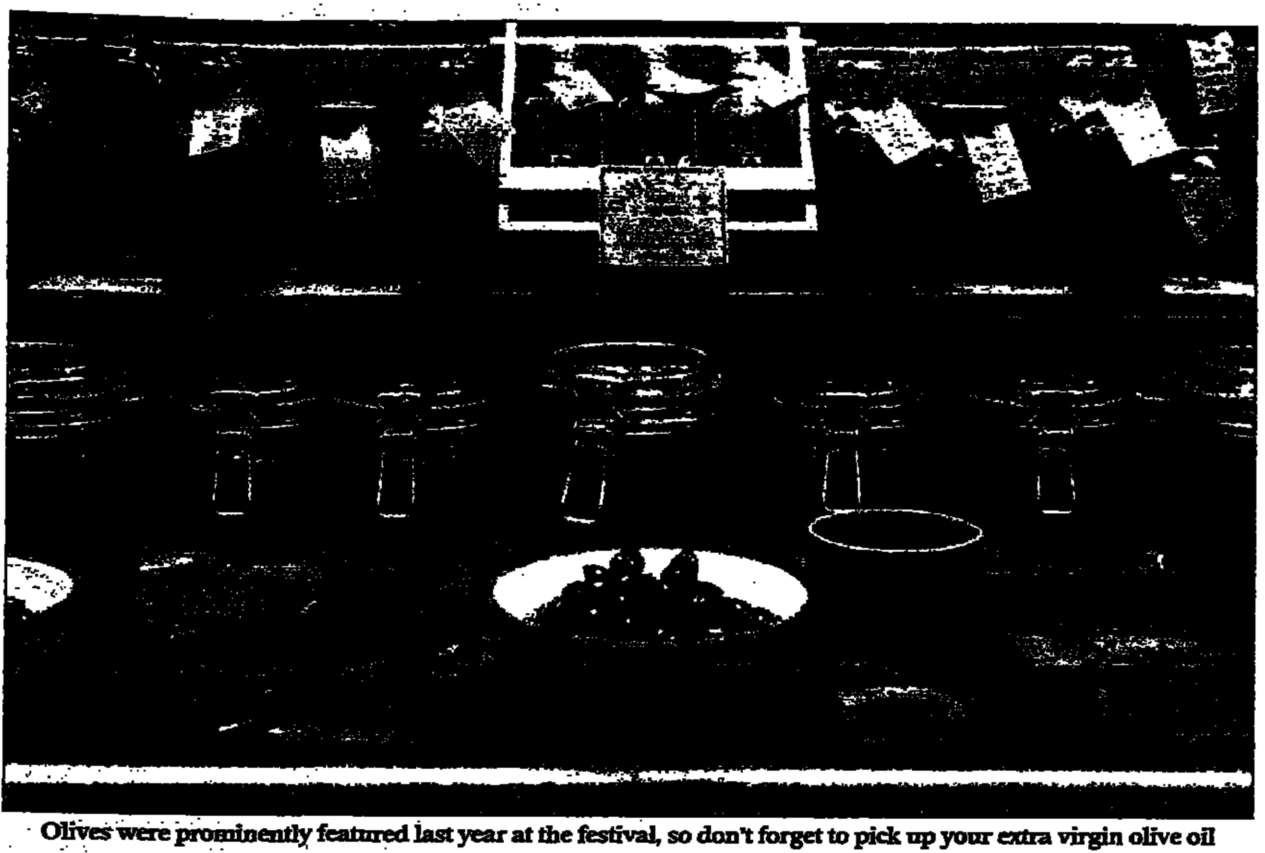
INTERNATIONAL FINE WINE & FOOD

FOCUS

Robin Young introduces a special report on four days of culinary exploration and adventure

From alligator to radioactive iguana



Olives were prominently featured last year at the festival, so don't forget to pick up your extra virgin olive oil

Food is fast becoming Britain's favourite spectator sport. Where it was once considered a chore, associated with household drudgery, cookery has now become the fastest growing component of the leisure industry. Food is now fun.

That is why more television hours are now devoted to cooks and chefs than to footballers or cricketers. Cookbooks, also, are right up there with gardening manuals as staples of the publishing industry, and the time is fast approaching when the British will eat out more often than they do at home.

So while fewer and fewer people actually cook meals for themselves, and spend less and less time about it when they do succumb, the fascination with new-fangled means of readying food for consumption, at home, in a pub, club, bar or restaurant, or simply on the hoof, has become an almost insatiable appetite.

At the International Festival of Fine Wine and Food which begins at Olympia next Thursday there will be something for everybody. You want to degustate over the difference between native and rock oysters? Both will be there. You always wanted to know how Greeks keep their teeth while demolishing copious quantities of halva and baklava? Ask at the Greek delicacies stall.

You always wondered how different the ham from an acorn-fed pig might be? Hurry along to snatch a sliver of Iberian black leg Jabugo, proof that it is not only great oaks that grow from little acorns.

How about this one? Traditional hickory-smoked salmon from Scotland. No honestly, that is what it says right here in the press release. You never heard of the tradition of hickory-smoking Scottish salmon? Neither did I, but at this exhibition obviously even the traditions are new.

And as for smoking food, nothing is safe. They have smoked haggises, alligators, ostriches and springboks for your delectation. "Never tried before," the press release enthusiastically claims about the smoked haggis. Don't they realise that the haggis dates from Neanderthal times and that in prehistoric huts, in Scottish brochs and in medieval halls *absolutely everything was smoked* — including the haggises?

I hesitate to comment on "Iguana radioactive hot sauces from Costa Rica". You want your sauces radioactive, that's your business, but excuse me while I retire behind my solid lead bib, as provided by dentists when taking X-rays.

You cannot be too careful when picking your way around a modern food show, booby-trapped as it is likely to be with temptations such as chocolate-dipped prunes, exotic mushrooms with weird names and possibly mind-expanding potential, or ice creams impreganted with half a cupboard full of spices.

The point is that these shindigs really are fun. You get to meet people who are not ashamed to admit that they wholeheartedly enjoy food and drink, or even derive their principal pleasure from it.

Why, these events can even be useful! Would I know how to cook scallops without turning them into a passable imitation of ice hockey pucks had I not seen Bruno Loubet lucidly explaining and demonstrating the art at just such an event?

How would I have found non-stick saucepans that actually do not stick, had I not met a persuasive salesman at Olympia? Would I have known of the existence of fruit-flavoured teas, or ever have developed a habit of nibbling chocolate-covered coffee beans if I had not been to previous years' shows?

It would be folly to pretend that I enjoy everything I encounter at such a show. Some of them (multi-flavoured potato crisps, packeted pizzas, most ready-mixed sauces) are, to my fastidious mind, quite appalling. But at least I am fully abreast of what is out there, and what other people may be enjoying.

So this year, for example, visitors to the International Festival of Fine Wine and Food will become the first to be able to sample the New Covent Garden Soup Company's new range of *fresh* baked bean products — including what should be a very flavoursome baked bean casserole made with Great Northern haricot beans, molasses, Dijon mustard and garlic; a spicy version pepped up with dry Ancho chillies from Mexico; a Mediterranean compilation of canelinni and flageolet beans with tomato and fresh tuna; and a mix of Puy lentils, aduki and mung beans with olives, pimentoes, caper and thyme.

This is one range being launched at the festival which is already assured a national release (from October 10 in major supermarkets and leading grocers around the country at prices from £1.49 a carton), but there are plenty of other novelties on show which will be much less widely available.

The festival is your opportunity to ferret through all the latest innovations, to sort out the brilliant from the duff, and to put yourself ahead of all those leisure cooks sitting at home watching chefs on television. Food may have become a leisure industry, but it's only half the fun if you do not get stuck in and participate.

Britain becomes a big cheese

A guided tour of farms and specialists with **Kate Weatherell**

IN THE 1960s and early 1970s, British cheese was sliced from rectangular blocks. If the block was orange, it was Leicester; if chalky, Wensleydale; and if white with blue lines, Stilton. The rest was Cheddar.

Not until the mid-1980s did wedges of crusty farmhouse wheels and soft goats' and ewes' milk cheeses invade fridges. Thanks to struggling farm cheesemakers and a bunch of enthusiasts, the British cheese renaissance began and last night the winners of the fourth annual British cheese awards, sponsored by Tesco, were announced.

Seasonal fluctuations in temperature and humidity can alter a cheese's texture, flavour and acidity. Good cheese shops and delicatessens, however, will stock many and Tesco makes a point of stocking the winning cheeses.

Beenleigh Blue, made with ewes' milk, has a fudgy sweetness, a spicy blue flavour and a hint of the sea. Robin Congden, Beenleigh's creator, has taken the year-round coolness and constant humidity of the caves of Roquefort as a model for the water-refreshed airflow into his maturing rooms.

Stilton once was not deemed ripe until squirming with maggots. Now ripeness is judged by the appearance of a creamy texture. The best Stiltons, such as the mellow Colston Basset, have green veining on a cream background, rather than blue on white.

The Lancashire produced by Ruth Kirkham, one of this year's award winners, bears no resemblance to the usual plastic-wrapped rectangle. Her delicate handling of the curds produces a creamy, firm and only slightly crumbly texture.

Appleby's Cheshire is crumbly, mellow and earthy, with a sometimes green-tinged white rind. The mould on the rind of the Caerphilly made by Chris Duckett, of Somerset, invades the maturing cheese, producing an earthy flavour.

The fruity and explosive Montgomery — another of this year's winners — and nutty, creamy Keen's represent the smaller of the traditional West Country Cheddar producers, while Waterloo, a yellow Guernsey milk cheese, runs like the best from a French farmhouse and has a peppery grassiness.

But the most voluptuous, meaty and pungent of them all must be Irish Milleens, the 1997 Supreme Champion of the British cheese awards.

The nanny-goat's contribution is extensive, be it Ticklemore, with its ridged dusty oyster shell rind, or Golden Cross, which matures to a well-balanced flavour. Ash-sprinkled Tymsboro, from Avon, winner of this year's best soft white cheese award, is goat heaven when ripe.

Ireland produces some stunning cheeses, not least Mine Gabhar, with a rich, velvety texture and earthy flavour.

Sheep milking has produced the likes of Berkswell, a Pecorino-style cheese that combines fruitiness with savouriness.

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Take your pick from a range of British-made cheeses

HOW TO BOOK

CALL *The Times* International Festival of Fine Wine & Food hotline: 0171-244-0950 (lines are open Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-2pm). Tickets cost £16 per person and include free tastings and demonstrations, tasting glass, catalogue and delivery of wine and non-perishable purchases by White Arrow Express. Please note there is strictly no admittance to anyone under 18 years of age.

Investing in fine wine can bring rich returns, writes **Sue Spenceley Burch**

Put money where your mouth is

There is wine — everyday plonk and the better stuff drunk on high days and holidays. And then there is wine which is hardly ever drunk, not because it is bad, but because it is so good.

There is a healthy investment market for fine wine. Simon Staples manages the broking department at the London wine merchants Berry Bros & Rudd. He says there is no comparison with other forms of investment, if you pick the right wine. "In May 1991 you could have bought ten cases of 1990 Château Latour or Château Margaux at around £400 per case, and sold them in July 1996 for at least £3,000 a case. That's a return of £30,000 and a profit of £26,000. If you had invested the £4,000 in an investment trust over the same period, according to Reuters Hindsight, it would have yielded £7,922 — a profit of £3,922.

Massive new demand from the Far East has driven prices sky high. Fine wine has suddenly become a status symbol, but with relatively little experience, these new wine drinkers turn for advice to Robert Parker Jr, reputedly the world's most famous wine writer, who writes for *Wine Advocate*, an American magazine.

His opinions are so highly regarded that the market apparently follows wherever he leads. Wine trade insiders believe that Mr Parker now has so much influence that some Bordeaux châteaux are secretly adapting their wines to his tastes.

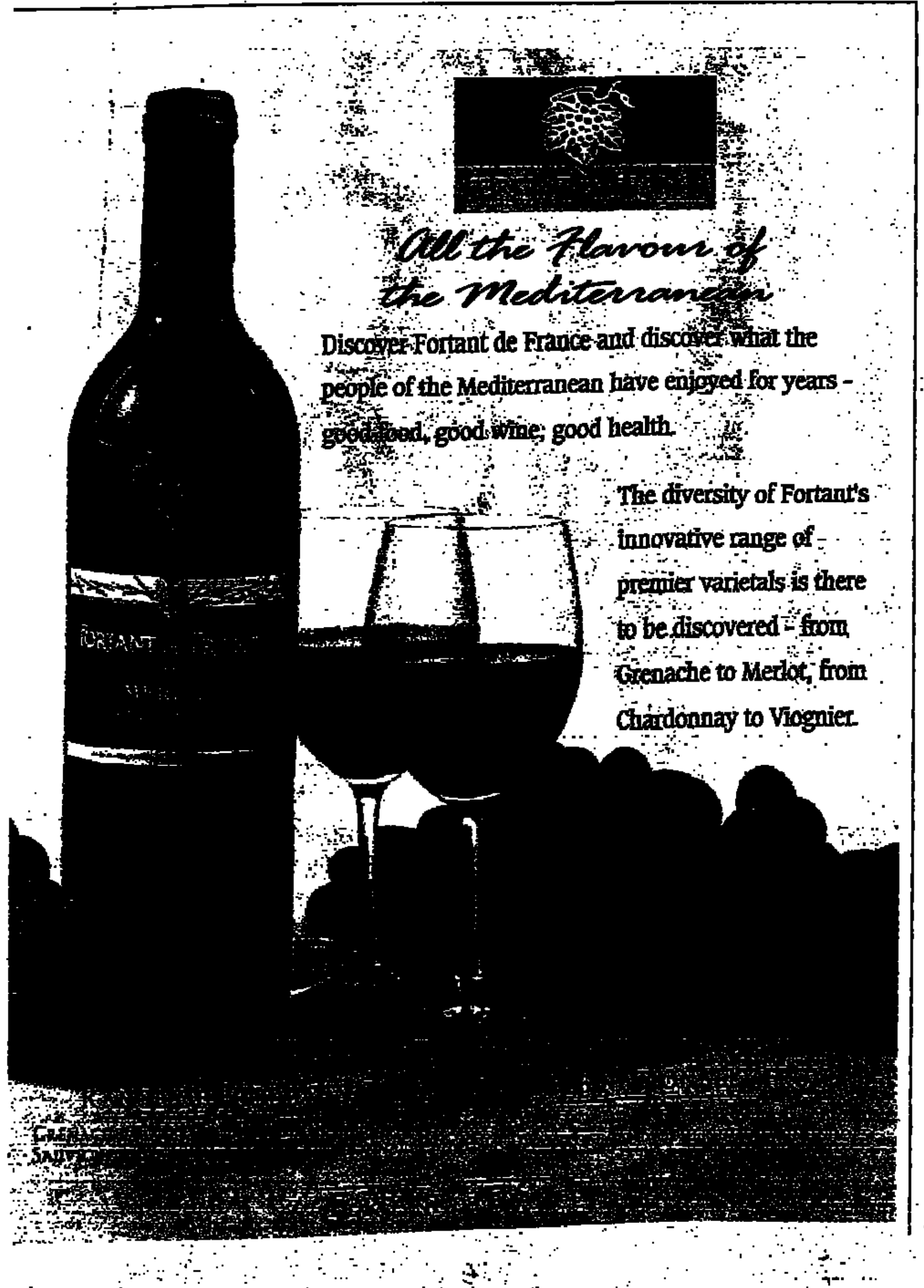
Mr Staples says: "Parker grades wines out of 100 and when he gives a wine the magical 100 points, the price shoots up. Some people are taking ridiculous gambles based on what he says. He rates new wines out of the cask — but they still have two more years in the barrel. You could be completely disappointed when it has matured."

Simon Woods, editor of the *Which? Wine Guide*, says: "I have heard of expensive wine being opened and then mixed with Coca-Cola, because the owner didn't like the taste. Very few wines have investment potential. The prime area is Bordeaux, but only 50 out of thousands of wines are worth looking at. There hasn't been a really good vintage since 1990."

For someone just starting, and looking to capitalise on their investment in five years, Mr Staples says: "Don't go for the very top wines. Instead look at, say, a 1986 Pichon-Longueville-Lalande. This wine is highly Parker-rated and is currently £1,000 a case."

In general, Mr Staples recommends buying wine by the case: "Whole cases are much easier to sell. Don't just buy a few bottles from a shop unless it is an amazing bargain." You should also keep your wine in a bonded warehouse. Duty and VAT are only payable when the wine is taken out of bond, but you can sell it without moving it.

Buy five or ten cases rather than just one — unless it is the ultimate, top wine. You could buy larger lots from lesser châteaux — say 50 cases of 1996 Château Pontet-Canet. Rated highly by Parker, it currently costs £200 per case. Mr Staples believes you could soon double your money.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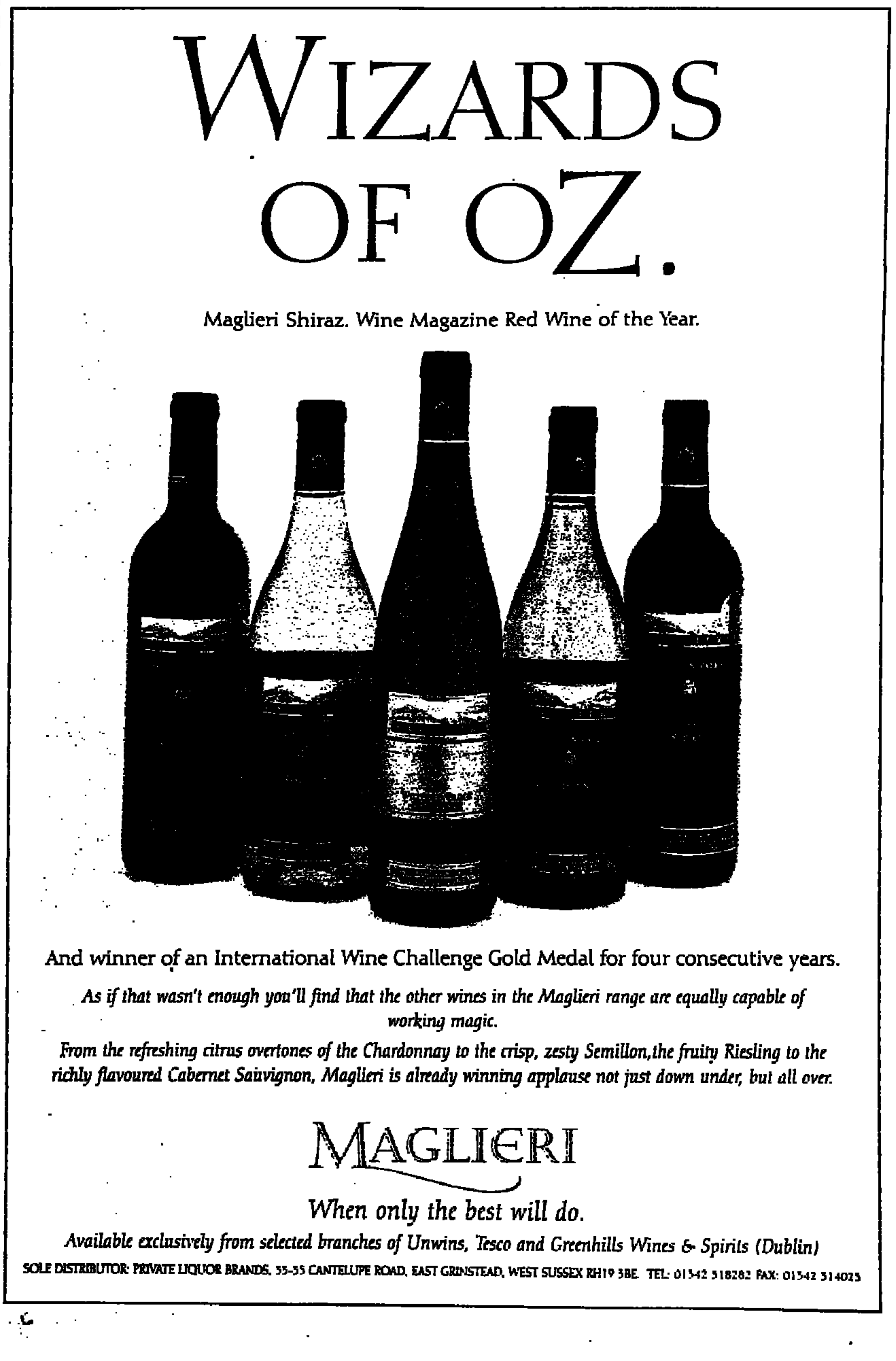
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Frances Bissell describes the preparations she and fellow professional cooks put into their demonstrations in the Celebrity Kitchen

Game to put on a bit of a show

I had to smile when I saw the Celebrity Kitchen timetables of events. With *Easy Autumn Entertaining*, I thought I was the only one being evasive about what I was going to cook. But no, we have *Autumn Evenings* from Brian Baker: *Winter is Upon Us* from Henry Harris; *A Seasonal Menu* from Sue Lawrence; *Winter Warmers Made Easy* from Herbert Berger; and more in the same vein, which some of you might think irritatingly vague. But it is not that at all, I promise you.

Cooks love preparing food in season, and when Lyn Hall asks us, in the late spring, what we are going to be cooking for the festival in mid-October, I, for one, find it impossible to decide. I am still cooking asparagus and salmon trout. Jersey Royals and gooseberries, and it is difficult to think about autumnal food. Even now, although I know I shall be cooking game and have tested the recipe for it, I shall not know until the day before my demonstration whether it will be pheasant or venison. Fortunately, my recipes are adaptable and the one I have in mind can be used for a range of game with only minor adaptations.

We have to be ready 15 minutes in advance, and must not overrun our slot

Game is a popular theme this year, and probably Herbert Berger, Hugo Arnold and I will not be the only ones cooking it. A marvellous ingredient to work with, game is especially good for cookery demonstrations, which are strictly time-controlled. The best way to cook game is quickly and simply, to retain its flavour and texture, and then match it with lively, unusual or season accompaniments.

Those with a sweet tooth have plenty of choice this year. James Martin offers *Great Fruity Puddings* and Matthew Hardy, of the *Cordon Bleu*, introduces festive desserts with a new look in his demonstration, entitled *Sugar and Spice*. My own offering in the pud department is possibly one of the simplest recipes you will ever come across. It requires only two ingredients, one of them chocolate.

Maria José Sevilla, best known as an expert on Spanish and Mediterranean food, cooks with wine, and Anthony Tobin with olive oil. Top London tables are represented by Willi Elsener from the Dorchester, Anton Edelmann from the Savoy, and Antony Worrall Thompson from his new restaurant, W02. Alastair Little will be presenting dishes from his cookery course at La Cacciata in Tuscany.

However, the real star of this four-day festival of cookery demonstrations is Lyn Hall, of La Petite Cuisine fame. She it is who has got us all organised into a schedule, persuaded us to provide our recipes in good time, and then looks after us when we arrive. She runs a military-style operation with runners, mobile phones and a trolley and helper waiting for us outside. Here we unload and make our way to the preparation kitchen.

The first time I did one of these demonstrations, I came laden with pots and pans and containers, as well as cooking utensils and knives. Like most cooks and chefs, I carry my knives with me wherever I go to cook, but Lyn has the kitchen well stocked with the very best equipment, including serving *dishes and neat little* containers for the weighed-out ingredients. All I need to do now is bring everything in labelled, sealed, plastic bags, and the *mis en place* for each dish goes into a separate carrier bag. I feel much less like a packhorse when I arrive at Olympia these days.

Each of us is instructed by Lyn to be ready 15 minutes in advance, and not, under any circumstances, to overrun our slot.

She does not, I should add, check that our finger nails are not grubby, and ask us if we have a clean hankie, but I'm sure she could get away with it.

Celebrity cook Alastair Little, who will be presenting dishes from his cookery course at La Cacciata in Tuscany

Vintners follow in footsteps of Rome

Derwent May goes in search of the new wine world of Vinopolis

EVERY day the South Bank of the Thames grows more interesting. Behind Southwark Cathedral, past Drake's *Golden Hind* and the Clink Prison, runs the Cannon Street railway viaduct. Underneath, it is a vast world of soaring, dusty halls and Roman arches that in a year or so will have turned into the city of Vinopolis.

A new company, Wineworld London, has leased this catacomb-like realm from Railtrack, and is planning to turn it into a kind of wine theme-park.

The brick halls will turn into 20 colourful pavilions devoted to different wine regions of the world. The Italian pavilion will allow you to sit in Florentine splendour on a Vespa, learning all about Barolo and Valpolicella; the Californian pavilion will evoke a modern wine-making world of stainless-steel splendour.

In the Bordeaux pavilion, the organisers hope to hang some of the original paintings on which the Château Latour wine labels were based. Visitors to the Wine Odyssey, as it will be called, will be able to end their tour of the pavilions, without further charge, with a tasting of five wines from a selection of 300, some of them exclusive to Vinopolis.

That is not all the wine that will be found there. At the end of the tour, the Odyssey visitors will find a Majestic Wine warehouse in one of the largest halls, and a shop called *Bacchanalia selling* wine accessories from corkscrews to CD Roms.

On the side of the complex facing the river, there will be restaurants and a Gourmet Club — altogether there will be four restaurants of different character in the complex. On *the first floor there* will be a wine school, five suites for corporate hospitality, and a champagne-tasting bar.

The man behind this vision is Duncan Vaughan-Arbuckle, a wine merchant who used to store some of his cases among the Victorian yellow brick. The company will be raising £19 million to set it up, and have found a large number of keen investors.

The halls have already seen some parties. Carpets have been laid on the floors and the partygoers have danced to candlelight. Several rock groups have asked to hold parties there but until the complex is soundproofed they are being turned down because the company does not want to upset its neighbours. Vinopolis will be helped by the fact that the Globe theatre is a few hundred yards away, that Bankside power station is about to be transformed into the modern wing of the Tate Gallery, and that there will soon be a new Jubilee Line station near by.

If Wineworld's hopes are fulfilled, there will be half a million wine buffs coming every year to Vinopolis, their noses, *palates* and *minds all* dreaming of gratification.

They will all be following in the tracks of the Romans, who had a wine store here 2,000 years ago. Its remains were recently dug up, and will be one of the treasures on show.

In from the cold

Austrian wines return after scandal over 'antifreeze'

MENTION Austrian wines to many people and they will recall memories of the scandal in which "antifreeze" was used as a sweetening additive, with disastrous consequences for Austrian exports.

Austria now has one of the most strictly controlled wine industries in the world, but it is still seeking its rightful recognition as a producer of fine quality wines.

This year, for the first time, Austrian wines will be featured at the International *Festival of Fine Wine and* Food, at Olympia in London from October 9 to 12.

Unusual grape varieties, the peculiarities of Austrian micro-climates and the minerals in Austrian soils, as well as deeply imbued wine-making traditions, give Austria's finest *wines exceptionally musky* and spicy flavours, reminiscent of an exotic oriental bazaar.

Austria's most widely planted grape is the Grüner Veltliner, which produces much bland and ordinary wine but in its finer examples packs a fiery, spicy flavour, like white pepper. Welschriesling and Müller-Thurgau (often labelled Riesling x Silvaner) are two other popular Austrian white grapes, with Blaufränkisch and Blauer Portugieser the most widely planted reds.

Austrian wines tend to be *far more full-bodied*, alcoholic and beefy than those of its northern neighbour Germany, and a good deal finer than almost anything its eastern neighbours can offer.

ROBIN YOUNG

Spain pops champagne's bubble

Cava is so successful even French champagne houses such as Moët et Chandon are making the prizewinning sparkling wine, says **Edward Owen**

If experts told you a £5.30 bottle of Spanish cava and a £60 bottle of French champagne were as good as each other, which would you buy? Wine buffs undertaking a blind tasting for *Wine* magazine's International Wine Challenge chose a Spanish cava as the best budget sparkling wine of the year.

The judges said that Freixenet's Segura Viudas Heredad Brut "puts a lot of the French competition to shame". *In the judging for the Brut and* Extra Dry Trophy, the same cava and another from Freixenet level-pegged with several very expensive champagnes for the silver award.

The huge rise in the popularity of cava — mainly produced in the Penedès region of Catalonia, in northeastern Spain — *has ironically been* achieved since it was categorised with its own Denomination of Origin. It was forced to stop calling itself champagne even though it is strictly produced by the *méthode champenoise*.

Much of the success of the *Spanish bubbly is due to the* high standards and aggressive marketing of the two main cava producers, Freixenet and Codorniu.

"The tastings show that people who know a lot about wine found cava to be on a par with champagne," says Manuel Duran, the deputy chair*man of Freixenet, which has* 100 million bottles in its cellars in Sant Sadurni.

In their Wine Challenge category, Segura Viudas Reserva Heredad (£11.50) and the Freixenet cava supplied for the Safeway cava Brut label (£5.30) received a silver award *alongside the likes of Dom* Pèrignon Prestige Cuvée (£60.40).

But cava producers claim that they are not trying to compete with champagne and point out that the latter's sales have not fallen because of cava's success. Globally, cava now accounts for 35 per cent of *sparkling wine sales while* champagne takes 25 per cent.

"We are not trying to imitate champagne," Señor Duran emphasises. "We are trying to make a good sparkling wine and it seems we have achieved this. The explanation for the growing boom in cava is that *more and more people* are looking for value for money."

In the UK, champagne still sells more because of its image. "It is prestigious to give someone a bottle that has cost £60, it is a good present. But a bottle of cava costs about £7 and our top award winner is about half the price of the *average champagne," he adds.*

In the UK last year, Freixenet sales jumped a third and accounted for 60 per cent of the 6.5 million bottles of cava sold. Freixenet also supply Marks & Spencer and Tesco. Codorníu's Cuvée Raventós Brut, launched this *year to celebrate the bodega's* 125th anniversary, is selling well in the UK at the upper end of the cava market. Two advantages of cava's price and quality, available from *semi seco* to *brut*, are that tipplers are happier to use it rather than an expensive champagne for making cocktails or for seafood and dessert recipes that demand champers.

Moët et Chandon own one of the 280 cava bodegas in Spain, which last year, collectively, *sold 83 million bottles at* home and 60.7 million abroad. Ten years ago Moët started producing their first cava in Catalonia and this year expects to export 60 per cent of 700,000 bottles. In Spain, Moët's cava label is Chandon whereas in Britain it is called *Torre de Gall (£7.99).*

"We decided to use our tremendous *savoir-faire* to try to produce the best sparkling wine," Marc Ferté, the export manager in Barcelona, says. "Here we are not fighting the big boys — just aiming for a premium brand."

Be bold and fruity – enjoy wine

The International Festi*val of Fine Wine and* Food acknowledges and emphasises the partnership of food and wine that is an everyday fact of life in countries where wine is produced and regarded as a staple beverage.

In Britain, however, an element of mystery still surrounds the subject. This mystery is compounded by a number of myths and rules.

Take, for example, the best known rule — red wine with meat, white with fish. It is rubbish, and always has been. In wine-producing countries, there is no shortage of recipes for fish cooked in red wine. Many people find young, fresh and fruity red wine, possibly served chilled, as delightful with most fish dishes as any white. Even salmon steak sits happily alongside pink wine or a light red, while darker fleshed oil*rich fish such as mackerel*, sardines and tuna are as compatible with full-bodied red wines as red meat.

Now pay attention. When for example, wine writers correctly draw attention to the fact that many white wines made from chardonnay grapes have a "buttery" texture, they are in fact telling you that it will go with dishes you might want to eat with butter or a butter sauce.

That would include, for example, salmon steak, or smoked salmon (usual accompaniment, brown bread and butter) — *but also possibly a* beef steak, which is often served topped with a blob of *maitre d'* butter. And of course, chardonnay is the grape which makes the classic white burgundies which are the standard recommended partners for salmon dishes, and a good white alternative to go with steak or chops.

Confused by the 'rules' of drinking?

Robin Young offers his advice

Cabernet sauvignon is commonly described as having a blackcurrant flavour, or flavours of "red berry fruits". It goes well with meat dishes that might be accompanied with fruit sauces or jellies from similar sources. Cabernet franc, its fellow constituent of many clarets, is reckoned to have flavours akin to redcurrants. Redcurrant jelly is, *of course*, a recognised partner for lamb.

Merlot, the other important claret grape, has a plummy flavour. Plum sauces are favoured in Chinese cuisine to go with duck — but the French also like duck with blackcurrants.

Someone is likely now to say "But I like duck with cherries", or if they are really old-fashioned "I love duck *à l'orange*". For the cherry flavour I suggest something Italian made with sangiovese (chianti classico would be fine), while the orange lovers are probably more likely to prefer a citric white — an Austrian riesling might prove an inspired choice.

So it goes on. Beaujolais reminds some people of bananas, which recalls to my mind a dish of my youth called chicken Maryland, seldom seen nowadays, but proof that banana flavour can go very pleasingly with chicken, as can beaujolais. Zinfandel and syrah are often said to taste of blackberries. Step forward those who love bramble jelly.

Bear in mind too that these intensely fruity red wines can also go with chocolate. Chocolates, after all, come with fruit-flavoured centres. This whole business of discussing the partnership between wine and food should be about promoting new and imaginative couplings, not about compiling rule books trying to restrict or inhibit choice.

So among the whites the light, dry wines of several varieties are described as "lemony" — which is why they go well with the sort of fish often served with lemon slices, or with chicken, which can also be cooked in various lemon recipes.

Sauvignon blanc tastes somewhat like gooseberries. The French have little use for gooseberries, but do sometimes serve them as a garnish to mackerel. Try that — sauvignon and mackerel is terrific. There is a source for further inspiration: dry white sauvignon is the classic accompaniment in France for goat's cheeses, and therefore a candidate to go with other cheeses too.

Of other whites, chenin blanc is most frequently linked to apples. It makes one think of apple sauce with pork, fried apple slices with black pudding, and apple used in cabbage dishes. Gewürztraminer is reckoned spicy, and likened to lychees.

My suggestion is that instead of disregarding wine commentators' descriptions as fanciful, you should take them as a basis for what food that wine might accompany really well. Be bold! Enjoy!

Kate Weatherell looks at the specialist party organisers who provide food on the hoof and the razzmatazz

Fancy a fried cockroach or a custard pie fight?

Jumbo party: elephant displays at a private function

At the top end of the market "outside catering" — for weddings, anniversaries and especially business functions — is growing grander and grander. In the business, it is better known as "*location catering*".

This means providing five-star restaurant standard food in a severely limited period of time at a venue that might be a field, a museum or a warehouse for as many as 1,000 people or even more.

"Imagine," says Johnny Roxburgh of party organisers and caterers, The *Admirable Crichton*, "*arriving home* from work at 6pm and having to provide dinner for 900 people by 7.15pm."

This is virtually what he and the Admiral Chrichton staff had to do for the British Fashion Awards dinner staged at the Natural History Museum last year and what they will be *doing there once again next week*.

Though spectacular with its dinosaurs and soaring vaulted ceilings, this location is always a challenge for the caterer who is barred from the public areas until 6pm when the last museum visitor leaves. Details of how the event will be staged next week are locked tightly away at The Admirable Crichton. But for last year's fashion awards, Mr Roxburgh transformed the main stairway, into a waterfall flanked with naked men painted as zebras. The torrent flowed from the mouth of a huge African mask.

"*It always amazes me how these* young chefs produce five-star restaurant food for such numbers out of a kitchen which has only existed for two hours," he says. The kitchen has to be right. This means that when looking at a venue the practical considerations are key. Are the floors level for the ovens? How much *refrigeration do you require? Power?* Water? Loos?

Recently Caprice Events, which caters privately primarily for regulars from the restaurants Le Caprice and The Ivy, organised the Tate Gallery's centenary gala dinner. With 550 guests sitting down for three courses, this was the largest dinner ever to be held there.

Both starter and pudding were cold, but the main course ambitiously involved a roast fillet of sea bass: not a dish that can hang around for long either in an oven or on a table top. "This was a military operation with *15 ovens and 25 chefs in two self-built* temporary kitchens," says Tamsyn Kenyon, Events' organiser. "We brought in the electrics, the generator, the lot."

Recently an American CD-Rom company was launching a computer game involving cockroaches taking over New York. The event took place *at London Zoo*. "*We served* fresh cockroaches and mini scorpions sautéed to order and sweet ants," said Tania Hirschberg of the catering company As You Like It. "Of course we had the usual Thai fishcakes with coconut dip and black bean and chicken on prawn crackers, but the press seemed to prefer the insects . . ."

For *special events, people want* something different. There's the story from Australia about a fish barbecue in Melbourne where the host threw live fish into his swimming pool. The guests were handed rods and nets. The chefs gutted and grilled to order.

There are other ways of making an event special. A cruise round the storeroom of Rhubarb Food Design is a revelation in canapé presentation. At weddings you may be proffered a canapé from the brim of a straw hat, or a tiny silver spoon of caviar on a velvet tassled cushion. There are strips of Astroturf woven *with daisies and scattered* with mooing plastic cows for the beef carpaccio canapé, remoulded car typres, sci-fi landscapes, tipper trucks etc.

"We like to give them a little more than they expected. It's the little things that make people laugh," explains Lucy Gemmel of Rhubarb.

She places great emphasis on menu design. Food should be kept as uncomplicated as possible. The bread should be great, the canapés and petit fours memorable and the coffee good. The starter and pudding should shine and the main course should be *simple and delicious*.

More temperamental dishes can be served on location but must be tried and tested. Rhubarb's aubergine and Parmesan souffle served in a hollowed artichoke has held up for 300 guests in the past. "It's not like a restaurant with a static kitchen where you can perfect a menu," adds *Ms Gemmel*. "In location catering you never know what will happen next. It is always different."

Out beyond the doors of restaurants, catering is still about "location location and location". Party organiser William Bartholemew says he has never turned a party down due to location or through logistical difficulties.

He once ran a smart cocktail party in a decorated London warehouse. After 30 minutes of drinking, four large curtains were lifted to reveal 3,000 custard pies to the insouciant guests. Cocktail dresses, dinner jackets and all, they started throwing them. It can be amazing where you find yourself, he says.

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Walking is encouraged

School run is under fire

This month, all schools in Surrey — more than 500 of them — will receive their Safe Routes to School Challenge. The idea is that schools try to convince the 51 per cent of children who arrive by car that there is a cheaper and often healthier way.

It is estimated that 10 per cent of traffic on roads during term time is ferrying children and that this can reach 40 per cent at peak times.

The Surrey Challenge is the latest instalment in a project to encourage more children to walk and cycle to school. Surrey County Council, funded by the DoT, has undertaken an intense study in Frimley, a modern suburban development near Camberley, where 12 schools share key routes. There were significant differences between secondary and primary schools, girls and boys and going to and from schools.

Sarah Duckworth, Surrey Council's project leader, says: "Sometimes it's a question of whether there is a second car in the family and sometimes it's safe routes. But it is also a question of schools having a culture where the mums like to stop and talk, travel together and the children likewise."

Parental concern about danger is a major factor. Twice as many parents worried about their children walking and cycling to primary school as travelling by train or bus. In Frimley, for example, although few had far to travel, two thirds of parents drove their children to school.

Fears of parents declined considerably at secondary school level and the numbers who drove children to school halved. More than half those going to the highly rated comprehensive, Tomlinscote, walked. Twelve per cent of the secondary boys and 1 per cent of the girls cycled to school. Almost 10 per cent of those dropped off at school walked back, suggesting that parents could fit in the trip on their way to work but not on their way back.

The council is considering a range of solutions: cycle proficiency for both parents and children, cycle tracks and better and secure facilities for bikes at the school all have their place. Better road crossing would help to encourage walking.

Nearly all parents felt that their children would benefit from walking and cycling more often. Ten years ago children walked 50 miles a year more than they do today and cycled ten miles more a year. Almost all children (in the Frimley area) own bikes.

Secondary school children who travelled by car stated (in order of importance) it was because their parents "came that way", it was too far too walk and their parents preferred it that way. Fewer then 10 per cent said it was either more convenient or faster. At sixth-form level the car problem rears its head in a slightly different way with nearly 40 per cent of pupils driving themselves to college.

Dr John Trig, deputy head of Tomlinscote School, says: "Fear of traffic among parents is rather like their fear of their children being attacked. It's vastly exaggerated by their feeling that the odd story they read in the national press is being repeated every day locally. We have a real parking problem with parents. To break the cycle there need to be both national and local initiatives."

Children at Tomlinscote were asked for a "wish list of improvements" to encourage them to walk, cycle or use public transport more often. These included more and safer places to cross the roads; cycle paths separated from traffic; footpath links; a reduction and slowing of traffic; bus stops nearer home and school; better lighting; more policemen, lollipop ladies and traffic wardens; and special school buses so that parents and children can travel together.

Hugh Thompson

Some independent schools are not as successful as they may seem, says **John Rae**

The heads' tail end

MARGARET KEEDY

The annual meeting of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) takes place next week in Brighton. The spartan living and frugal fare once associated with these occasions have been replaced by the comfortable surroundings of a four-star hotel. One item on the agenda, however, is likely to give those attending an uncomfortable ride.

A millennium working party has been sounding members' opinion on the future of HMC. No one expects its report to be radical because members are in favour of the status quo, but there is one awkward question that cannot be avoided. Should the qualification for membership of HMC be changed?

The present qualifications are that 30 per cent of pupils over 13 must be studying for two or more A levels, and 75 per cent of A-level candidates must achieve a pass grade in at least two subjects.

By linking the qualification to the school's performance at A level, HMC signalled that it stood for academic standards and that prospective parents could be assured that a school whose head was in membership of HMC would not let them down academically.

It must have seemed a sensible way of restricting membership to a manageable size but it has turned out to be a trap. As the number of A-level passes has risen, either because candidates are working harder or because the exam is getting easier, the academic qualification for membership of HMC has lost credibility. League tables have exposed the long tail of academically weak HMC schools, some of whose results are so poor they do not appear on the league table at all.

The requirement that 75 per cent of candidates obtain two A-level passes is now so undemanding that those weak schools have been allowed to hang on to membership even though their academic performance does not justify it. If HMC wishes to be seen to represent the leading academic boys' and coeducational independent schools, it will have to raise the academic qualification for entry.

The new hurdle should be set at a level that carries conviction with prospective parents. An average points score of six, or grade C for each subject entry at A level, would be about right. If a school failed to reach this standard for three consecutive years, the head's membership of HMC would be withdrawn. On the evidence of this year's *Times* league table, about 40 HMC schools, that is 16 per cent of the membership, would be at risk, including such familiar names as Blundell's, Rossall and Stowe.

The heads at Brighton will be reluctant to consider such a proposal. Though they compete for pupils, they rely on one another for friendship and support. HMC is above all a good club. But unless they face this question, the status and the competitive edge that membership of HMC gives their schools will disappear.

From its early days, HMC has been the arbiter of which schools could properly be called public schools. Few people talk about public schools today but an informal ranking exists nevertheless. The so-called "top boys' schools" are the members of HMC. Schools in the second rank are members of the Society of Headmasters and Headmistresses of Independent Schools (SHMIS). Some of the latter are widely regarded as better than the weaker members of HMC but because they are small and have different priorities, such as the development of pupils who need learning support, they do not qualify for membership.

Not surprisingly, some members of SHMIS think HMC's attitude perpetuates old snobberies. Though they value their own organisation, they would like to see HMC abandon its academic qualifications and open its doors to all good boys' and coéducational schools.

The heads at Brighton will not like this proposal either. The weaker HMC schools desperately need the added value of membership. No one will put it in those terms. Instead, it will be argued that opening the door to SHMIS schools will make HMC too large. But if all SHMIS schools were allowed to join, HMC membership would rise from 240 to 290, an increase of only a few members in each regional division where most routine business is discussed.

The argument about the size of HMC is a red herring. Reluctance to change, whether by raising the academic hurdle or by admitting all good schools, regardless of A-level results, is all about protecting the weaker schools already in membership. HMC's seal of approval fills empty places.

"Only those heads whose schools meet rigorous entry criteria are admitted," explains one of the school guides consulted by parents, "and this helps to ensure that HMC is synonymous with high-quality education." What the guides do not tell parents is how modest the "rigorous entry criteria" now are. If parents knew that all a school needed was 75 per cent of candidates passing two A levels, they would soon lose faith in HMC as a guarantor of high-quality education.

That is why, for the heads in Brighton, the status quo is not an option. They have to choose between restoring HMC's academic credibility at the expense of up to 40 schools, and dropping the academic qualification altogether and merging with SHMIS. They will almost certainly opt for the latter. Admitting new members is much less painful than ejecting old friends.

This merger will pave the way for another. The Girls Schools Association (GSA), which has 220 members, admitted as good independent schools regardless of A-level results, is an obvious partner. A merger between GSA and HMC would strengthen the unity of the independent sector, save money and give the heads of independent secondary schools more clout with the Government, the media and governing bodies.

These changes will not happen overnight but in Brighton next week they will be set in train.

● *The author is a former chairman of HMC.*

Why lifelong lessons work

Tony Mooney on a survey that compares US and British results

Our politicians are adept at creating the impression that schools are underperforming and that this will adversely affect our ability to compete in world markets. Reference is often made to tables comparing the poor performance of our children in maths and science tests with those from other countries. The politicians argue that unless our schools educate children to the levels achieved in other developed countries, then our economy will suffer.

How then do they explain last week's report showing 13-year-olds in Britain outperforming those in the United States in mathematics and science? Both countries finished below such economic powerhouses as Norway and Romania. American children consistently perform less well in the tests than their British counterparts, yet the American economy is thriving.

Americans do not see education as ending when they leave school

Nor is the relatively poor performance of American children in comparative tests a new phenomenon: as long ago as 1983, the US Department of Education in the oft-quoted report *A Nation at Risk* highlighted the so-called "sorry" state of American education. "If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war. We have, in effect, been committing an act of unthinking, unilateral educational disarmament."

So why is the poor performance of American schools not yet having the devastating effect on the US economy that so many economists predict?

One theory suggests that a highly educated workforce is not necessary to compete in the global marketplace. All that is needed is a highly educated elite that can carry out the research, make the scientific and technological discoveries and then apply and market the new knowledge. The rest of the workforce need only be educated to the functional level necessary to maintain a modern infrastructure. It is argued that America has more or less reached the fine balance that is needed to keep itself ahead of its competitors.

This line of argument is, however, not supported by the facts. The questionable performance is not affecting the nation's economy because of other educational factors of which we need to take note.

First, most Americans do not see education as ending when they leave school at the age of 18. There is an expectation that most students will go on to college to further their learning and then advance it even further when they start work. Companies are more geared to training and developing their employees than many in the UK and as a result learning is a lifelong process.

A second factor in keeping the US out in front is its attitude to what constitutes useful knowledge as taught in its universities. We have too readily accepted that any subject studied in higher education is useful preparation for the commercial world. American courses are much more scientific and technologically based.

The American experience suggests that the health of a nation's economy is not necessarily linked to the performance of its schools. Our politicians need to concentrate their energies on promoting the idea of lifelong education to improve the nation's productivity.

Fred Redwood gives advice on parents' evenings

Before you meet Sir, do your homework

A month of the new term has passed and it is time for the schools to organise the first of their parents' consultation evenings. Although potentially beneficial and informative, these events often, sadly, amount to little more than a polite ritual.

Teachers take shelter behind the specialist language of education-speak, firing off reams of National Curriculum scores, while stunned parents gain very little real understanding of the progress of their children.

In order to make the most of parents' evenings it is wise to follow a carefully prepared game plan. Parents and child should look through the term's workbooks and files. While keeping the atmosphere positive, they should discuss specific topics which pose problems.

It is sometimes forgotten that parents have a role to play as their child's representative at the parents' evening. After all, it is often easier for an adult to make a teacher aware of a problem with learning than it is for the child to do so by speaking up in class. So this discussion should be taken seriously.

Parents benefit from a game plan

During the consultation evening itself, parents should ensure that they gain an accurate picture of the child's ability. The national curriculum levels are too broad to be meaningful: pupils may take over a year to move from one level to the next. So teachers should be questioned about how the child performs in relation to the year group. The results of any other standardised forms of testing that the school may use should also be requested.

When teachers mention national curriculum levels parents should ask what they mean in relation to skills acquired. It is vital that they are not palmed off with the "average ability, making satisfactory progress" opt-out clause. Assessment must be accurate because if a child is beginning to fall behind then this could be the best time to employ a home-tutor.

The question of seating arrangements is important. It is not uncommon for teachers to arrange classroom groupings so that an industrious pupil is partnered with a disruptive one — the former to exert a good influence on the latter. That's fine if the arrangement has the planned effect.

However, if your child is the better motivated of the pair and progress is hindered by this social altruism then it is time to complain. It is also a good idea to ask the child's opinion regarding where he works most productively — at the front or back of the class and with whom. If the teacher agrees with the assessment there is no reason why accommodation should not be made for these wishes.

The question of behaviour is a very sensitive one. Some teachers are reluctant to report incidents of misbehaviour to parents, suspecting that it reflects badly on their classroom discipline. Others have high-minded ideas about the sanctity of the teacher-pupil relationship. Personally, I believe it is important that parents know how their children conduct themselves at school. They should certainly refer to the issue if the teacher does not bring it up.

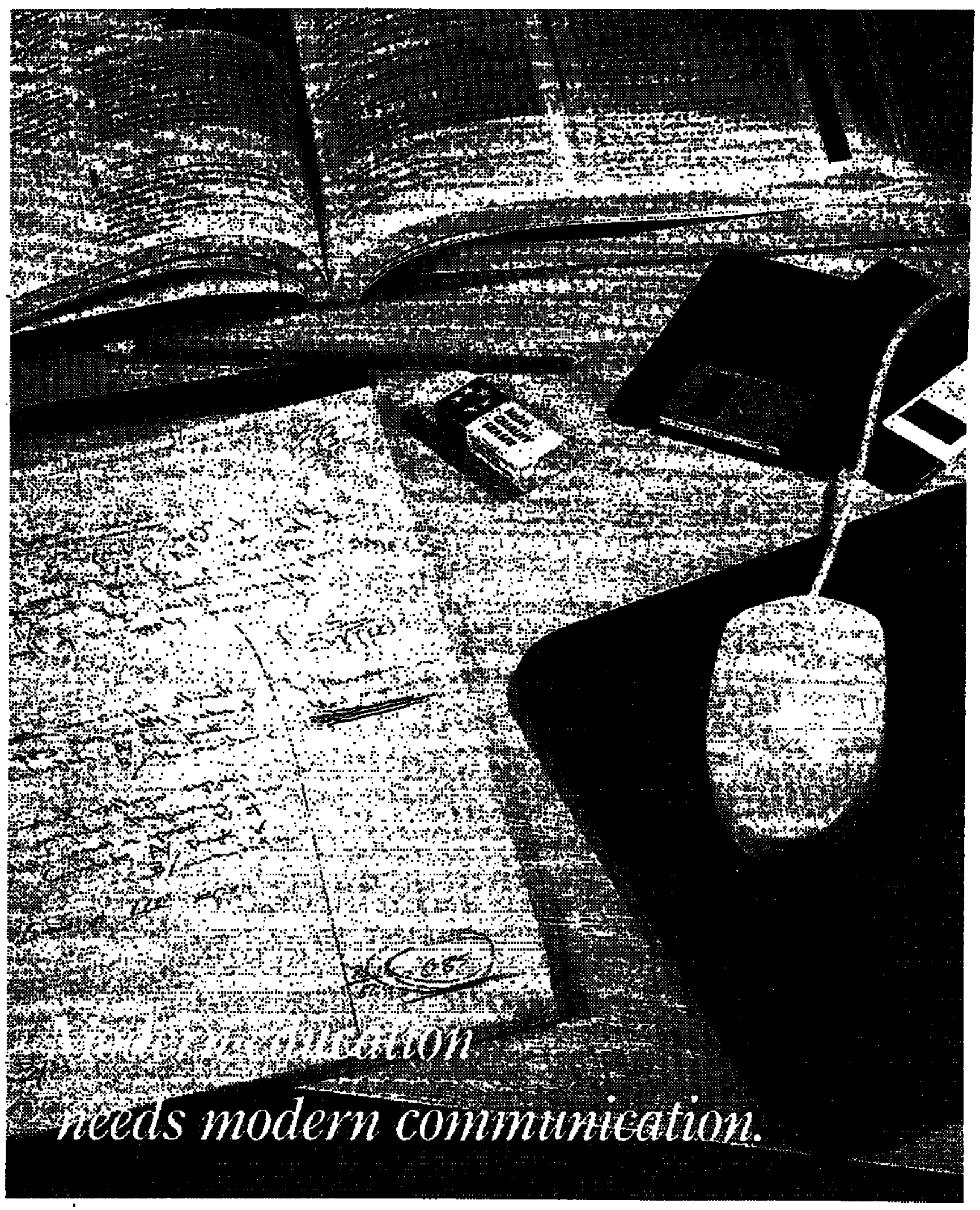
It is very important that parents understand what is required of their children in terms of academic commitment. The teachers supervise work in school but parents have a role to play in checking that homework is being completed satisfactorily. They should ask when homework is set and which topics are due to be covered in the coming months. Nearly all comprehensives — and many primary schools too — now issue homework organiser books. The parents' evening is the time to check the school policy for commenting in and signing these helpful "diaries" when homework has been completed.

Information should also be obtained about the amount of help each teacher finds acceptable with homework. Some more enlightened schools set homework tasks which specifically require the involvement of parents. However, this is very much a matter for each individual teacher. The amount of parental help which is acceptable also varies a good deal from subject to subject.

For example, an English teacher may welcome co-operation in checking through a first draft of writing: helping to correct spelling and sentence construction. No teacher can pay such close attention to each piece of work from every child in a class, so help will most likely be welcomed.

However, a mathematics teacher may demand a single, preferred approach to problem-solving. The contribution of teaching methods from your old schooldays may make for confusion. Most importantly, some homeworks may take the form of course-work assignments for GCSE, in which case parents must offer no help whatsoever. So the issue of homework must be broached.

Too many parents leave parents' evenings having learnt little beyond the anecdotal. A planned strategy for approaching these meetings ensures that they gain the hard information to which they are entitled.



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Information about the department may also be found on the World Wide Web: http://fourier.dur.ac.uk:8000/home.html

Further details and an application form may be obtained from the Director of Personnel, University of Durham, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3HP, to whom applications (5 copies) should be submitted, including the names of three referees. (Candidates outside the British Isles may submit one copy only). Tel: +44 (0)191 374 3140, fax: +44 (0)191 374 7253 or e-mail: mr.recruit@durham.ac.uk

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To ensure the transnational objectives of the ADAPT programme are achieved by optimising the effectiveness of the programme's partnerships and securing maximum exposure for the project through the dissemination programme.

It is essential the successful applicant

- displays excellence in a number of European languages
- has an understanding of new media technologies
- has prior success in a communications and/or media environment
- has had exposure to commercial imperatives, particularly within export markets
- has the ability to work within a small team, generating both enthusiasm and motivation
- has the ability to communicate at all levels

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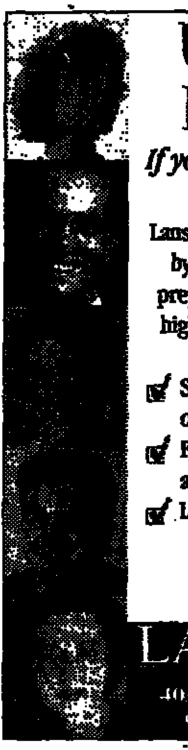

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Costs order not justified

Seifert v Pensions Ombudsman and Others

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment July 31]

It was not a sufficient ground to order the Pensions Ombudsman to pay the costs of all the parties' appeals from his decision that part of his determination was set aside.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in allowing appeals brought by:

(1) the Pensions Ombudsman, Mr Julian Farrand, QC, against the order for costs made against him in the Chancery Division by Mr Justice Lightman (*The Times* August 9, 1996; [1997] 1 All ER 214), when he had allowed appeals by John Seifert, Anthony Lynch and Philip Helm, former trustees, and Fairmount Trustee Services Ltd from a determination of the ombudsman dated December 5, 1995 upholding complaints by Mr Erdogan Kural of maladministration by the former trustees and by his former employer, Seifert Ltd;

(2) Mr Kural against the decision by Mr Justice Lightman that his complaint had no substance.

Mr Christopher Nugee for the ombudsman; Mr David Rees for Mr Seifert; Mr Adam Deacock for Mr Kural; Mr John Stephens for Fairmount.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON, delivering the judgment of the court, said that a dispute had arisen in June 1992 between Mr Kural, his employers and the trustees of their pension scheme. No doubt Mr Kural thought that the Pensions Ombudsman would provide a rapid and just resolution of the problem. Five years later there was still a dispute, large amounts of money and effort had been spent seeking to resolve it and Mr Kural had not yet received any pension.

In a letter of December 9, 1991, the employers gave Mr Kural six months notice of his redundancy, and offered him the option of early retirement. After some earlier proposals, on February 17, 1992, the employers provided Mr Kural with a quotation provided by Guardian Assurance, of his entitlement under the scheme.

Mr Kural's notice expired on June 8, 1992 and he left his employment. However, as his pension arrangements were thought to be still under negotiation, he was not in receipt of a pension when the scheme began to be wound up on June 30, 1992. On July 8, 1992 the employers went into administrative receivership; and on August 18 Fairmount was appointed independent trustee of the scheme.

On October 8, 1992 Guardian Assurance wrote to Fairmount that the assets held were insufficient to secure the calculated liability in full, and that the current funded position was 83 per cent. That information was passed on to Mr Kural by Fairmount on October 17. There was further correspondence until Mr Kural complained to the Pensions Ombudsman on January 22, 1995.

The original complaint was against Guardian Financial Services; only later were others added. Mr Kural asserted that he was wrongly offered 63 per cent of the required sum, when he should have been offered 83 per cent, which he would, most certainly, have accepted.

However, he enclosed a copy of a recent letter of his own claiming "100 per cent ... or at worst not less than 83 per cent". In April 1995 Mr Kural sent the ombudsman a copy of his letter dated March 28 in which he said that Guardian Assurance should have offered him 83 per cent. But in June he was writing to the ombudsman's office to show that he accepted the quotation of February 17, 1992 for 100 per cent of his entitlement.

On October 12, 1995 the ombudsman sent a provisional determination to those concerned. On December 5, 1995 he published his final determination. He inserted in it some eight new paragraphs which dealt with the matters raised by the individual trustees in their comments. That did not unfortunately contribute to clarity. Instead it tended in some instances to introduce obscurity where the provisional determination had been clear.

Only three interests were represented by counsel before Mr Justice Lightman: (i) Mr Seifert, (ii) Mr Lynch and Mr Helm, and (iii) Fairmount. So there was no oral argument for either Mr Kural or the ombudsman. Mr Justice Lightman was very critical of the ombudsman's procedure and of his decision.

There were five grounds for that criticism:

1 The ombudsman's office failed to send a copy of Mr Kural's letter of August 4, 1995, complaining that the employer's had not paid £75,300 into the pension scheme to bridge the gap until normal retirement age, to the others concerned in the complaint.

2 He failed to have regard to clause 21 of the definitive deed establishing the scheme, which exempted the trustees from liability for acts or omissions not due to their own wilful neglect or default.

3 His reasons were unintelligible.

4 His determination was not directed at the complaint which he had received.

5 The complaint itself had no substance.

Mr Justice Lightman had ordered that the directions of the ombudsman be set aside. That he should pay the taxed costs of Mr Lynch, Mr Helm and Mr Seifert, and that the balance of their costs should be paid out of the scheme.

The first two of Mr Justice Lightman's criticisms were now accepted by the ombudsman. The remaining three points could be taken together.

The whole history of the dispute was fraught with imprecision and misunderstanding. That was liable to happen in the nature of things when a person untrained in the law made a complaint on a somewhat technical subject; unless the adjudicator insisted on knowing precisely what the complaint was, even if he had to define it for himself.

The truth of the matter was that Mr Kural complained both against not receiving 83 per cent and against not receiving 100 per cent. In addition, in his letter of August 4, he complained that the employers had not paid the additional £75,300 into the scheme.

Mr Helm and Mr Lynch in their comments to the ombudsman concentrated on that last aspect of the complaint and did not grapple with the case that Mr Kural should have been paid the pension to which he was entitled.

In their Lordships' judgment the complaint made did have substance and that was the ground on which the determination was based. There was some degree of obscurity in the final determination, but not to any relevant extent in relation to that ground of complaint.

The appeals from the ombudsman were necessary and achieved a result, in that two paragraphs of his determination were and remained set aside. But that was not sufficient ground to order him to pay the costs.

Solicitors: Mr John Yolland, Putney; Jacobsens; Burton Woolf & Turk; Sacker & Partners.

LSD sentencing guidelines

Regina v Hurley

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Mantell and Mr Justice Dyson

[Judgment July 28]

Guidance for sentencing in cases of possession of lysergic acid diethylamide was laid down when judgment was given by the Court of Appeal reducing a sentence of 14 years imprisonment imposed at Southwark Crown Court by Judge Rivlin on Joseph Robert Hurley who had pleaded guilty to possessing a class A drug with intent to supply, contrary to section 4(1) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Police had seized 319 sheets of paper impregnated with LSD and divisible into quarter-inch squares, yielding 280,000 units, and representing one of the largest seizures of LSD in many years. At about £3.75 for a unit the projected receipts exceeded £1,000,000. About eight grams of LSD had been used for the 319 sheets and the average LSD content of the squares was 31 micrograms.

The appeal against sentence was brought by leave of the single judge.

Mr Rudi Fortson, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Miss Louise Kamill for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that their Lordships had been asked in the course of the appeal, to give guidance on the appropriate levels of sentencing in LSD cases.

The Court of Appeal had expressly declined to do that in *R v Aranguren* (*The Times* June 28, 1994; (1995) 16 Cr App R (S) 211, 216) but had revised previous sentencing for unlawful importation of heroin and cocaine so as to relate the level of sentencing to the quantity of the drugs at 100 per cent purity.

Their Lordships proposed to accede to the invitation to give some guidance in the present appeal. It was not for their Lordships to draw distinctions between different class A drugs.

In their Lordships' judgment, in the case of 25,000 or more quarter-inch squares or dosage units the sentence should in the ordinary case be 10 years plus. For 500,000 or more dosage units the sentence should ordinarily be 14 years plus.

In each case their Lordships assumed that the dosage unit was of approximately 50 micrograms content pure LSD. Adjustment might be needed when it was shown to vary significantly from that figure.

Where the seizure was of tablets or crystals in a form which enabled a precise weight to be ascertained readily and easily there should be no problem in calculating the number of 50 microgram doses.

Their Lordships wished to make it clear that the guideline was not a straitjacket. They appreciated that cases might arise where for good reason the sentencing level could vary appropriately. Sentences had to retain a measure of flexibility to do justice in individual cases.

Had the appellant fought the case the appropriate sentence would have been 12 or 13 years. As it was a plea of guilty, the proper sentence would have been 10 years, and accordingly the appeal would be allowed, the 14-year sentence quashed and 10 years substituted.

Solicitors: CPS, London.

Disqualifying estate agent

Antonelli v Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Aldous

[Judgment July 31]

The power of the Director General of Fair Trading to make an order under section 3 of the Estate Agents Act 1979 disqualifying a person from acting as an estate agent could be exercised in respect of conviction for an offence committed abroad before the Act came into force.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Mr Samuel Antonelli from a decision of Mr Justice Buxton on May 11, 1995 on appeal from a decision of the secretary of state on August 6, 1993 that because of Mr Antonelli's readiness to commit violence gainst property there would be a risk of detriment to the public if he were to engage in estate agency work.

Section 3 of the 1979 Act provides: "(1) The power of the Director General of Fair Trading ... to make an order ... shall not be exercisable unless that person — (a) has been convicted of — (i) an offence involving fraud or other dishonesty or violence, or..."

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Miss Renee Calder for Mr Antonelli; Mr Duncan Ouseley, QC and Mr Rabinder Singh for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that the appellant was convicted in the Recorder's Court in Detroit, Michigan of the crime of "burning real estate other than a dwelling house between December 1 and 8, 1971".

He did not serve the imposed sentence of between 2½ and 10 years imprisonment but left for Israel and later came to the United Kingdom.

Mr Beloff contended, inter alia, that the judge was wrong to hold that the 1979 Act had retrospective effect enabling a conviction occurring before May 3, 1982, when the Act came into force, to be taken into account.

He relied on the general principle elucidated by Lord Brightman in *Yew Bon Tew v Kenderaan Bas Mara* ([1983] 1 AC 553, 558): "A statute is retrospective if it takes away or impairs a vested right acquired under existing laws, or creates a new obligation, or imposes a new duty, or attaches a new disability, in regard to events already past."

The Act, if the power was exercisable in respect of past convictions, would be imposing a new disability in regard to events already passed.

Mr Beloff also criticised the judge's decision because he had relied on the decision of the Divisional Court in *In re a Solicitor's Clerk* ([1957] 1 WLR 1219). The authority of that decision was questioned by Lord Justice Staughton in *Secretary of State for Social Security v Tunnicliffe* ([1991] 2 All ER 712, 724D).

But Mr Justice Buxton had regarded the case of *In re a Solicitor's Clerk* as the nearest parallel to the present case.

He pointed out that the passage in the judgment of Lord Justice Staughton in which he expressed doubts about the validity of the decision was immediately followed by a passage cited with approval by Lord Mustill in *L'Office Cherifien des Phosphates v Yamashita-Shinnihon Steamship Co Ltd* ([1994] AC 486, 524). Yet Lord Mustill did not refer to or express any doubts about the decision in *In re a Solicitor's Clerk*.

In *L'Office Cherifien des Phosphates* the House of Lords had considered the approach to the construction of legislative provisions capable of impairing existing right by reference to past events.

After considering various statutes and decisions on them Lord Mustill had said (at p527D): "These cases do not point directly to a conclusion, but they do demonstrate that where an intermediate type of retrospectivity is in issue the purpose of the legislation and the hardship of the result contended for are of particular importance."

Adopting that approach his Lordship said that it would be quixotic to suppose that Parliament intended that the public should be protected from the activities of a practitioner convicted a week after the Act came into force but not from those convicted a week before.

Turning to the hardship if the result if the power was exercisable in respect of past convictions, it was accepted that the power to disqualify was severe and could be a catastrophic hardship.

But the conviction of an offence involving fraud or other dishonesty or violence was only a precondition on which the director's powers could be exercised. He still had to consider whether the person concerned was unfit to carry on estate agency work.

Thus the past conviction was not by itself determinative of disqualification. It was not inconceivable that Parliament clearly regarded conviction in the past as so contradictive of the protection of the public in the future that the director ought not to have the power to make an order where such conviction was proved.

Taking account of those factors his Lordship was satisfied that the judge was right to hold that the word "conviction" included conviction before the passing of the Act. He could see no ground for confining "conviction" so that a conviction outside the United Kingdom was excluded.

Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Aldous agreed.

Solicitors: Bray Walker; Treasury Solicitor.

Power to make order despite opposition

Structures and Computers Ltd v Ansys Inc

Before Mr Justice Neuberger

[Judgment August 22]

Where it was satisfied that there was a real prospect of an administration order achieving its proposed purposes, the court had jurisdiction to make such an order over a company pursuant to section 8 of the Insolvency Act 1986 despite the opposition of more than half in value of the creditors.

Mr Justice Neuberger so held in the Chancery Division when granting an application by Structures and Computers Ltd for an administration order against the opposition of Ansys Inc, holders of more than half the company's unsecured debt.

Section 8 of the 1986 Act provides: "(1) Subject to this section, if the court — (a) is satisfied that a company is or is likely to become unable to pay its debts ... and (b) considers that the making of an order under this section would be likely to achieve one or more of the purposes mentioned below, the court may make an administration order in relation to the company...

"(3) The purposes for whose achievement an administration order may be made are — (a) the survival of the company, and the whole or any part of its undertaking, as a going concern; (b) the approval of a voluntary arrangement ... (c) the sanctioning under section 425 of the Companies Act of a compromise or arrangement ... and (d) a more advantageous realisation of the company's assets than would be effected on a winding up, and the order shall specify the purpose of purposes for which it is made."

Mr Alan Gourgey for the applicant; Mr L. Tamlin for the respondent.

MR JUSTICE NEUBERGER, referring to section 8 of the 1986 Act, was satisfied the company was unable to pay its debts. Ansys, the main creditor, contended that in the light of the evidence the company could not satisfy the court that the making of an order would be likely to achieve any of the purposes listed in section 8(3).

In deciding the issue, his Lordship proposed to apply the test laid down by Mr Justice Hoffmann in *In re Harris Simons Construction Ltd* ([1989] 1 WLR 368, 371), namely whether there was a real prospect that one or more of the stated purposes might be achieved. The company's case was that at least primarily the order was justified under subsections 8(3)(a) and (d). Ansys argued that it was owed more than 50 per cent of the company's outstanding unsecured debts and would therefore be in a position to defeat any proposal put forward by the administrators by virtue of the provisions of rules 1.17 and 1.19 of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925). It had indicated it was likely to vote against any proposal of the liquidator.

Mr Tamlin had referred to *Re SCL Building Services Ltd* ([1990] BCLC 98) and *Re Land and Property Trust Co plc (No 2)* [1991] BCLC 849) to support the proposition that the court should not make an administration order where the majority of creditors indicated in advance that they opposed its being made. He had also relied on *Re Arrows Ltd (No 3)* ([1992] BCLC 555, 560).

His Lordship concluded that, despite Ansys's clear opposition, he did have jurisdiction to make an administration order. Unlike *SCL Building Services* and *Land and Property Trust Co plc (No 2)*, the voluntary arrangement was not in the instant case put forward as a major purpose and it was certainly not a necessary purpose for the making of the administration order. *Re Arrows Ltd (No 3)* had not involved section 8(3)(d).

If the administrator were to come forward with proposals under section 8(3)(a) or (d) and a substantial number of creditors supported those proposals but the majority opposed, it would still be open to the administrator to apply to the court for those proposals to be implemented.

There were grounds for believing that Ansys' attitude to the proposal of an administration might be based not so much on its interests as a creditor of the company but more from the indirect commercial benefit which it perceived it might obtain if the company went into liquidation as opposed to administration.

In addition there were allegations about possible misappropriation of money, charging of assets and the company's relations with its landlord. The administrator would be obliged to investigate some of those allegations.

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An Open Letter from the Shepway Council of Headteachers.

Dear Mr Blair and Mr Blunkett,

Is this consultation?

The Shepway Council of Headteachers is a long-standing association which includes all primary, secondary and special schools (Local Authorty and Grant Maintained) in the Folkestone and District Area of South Kent.

We have concerns about the Government's White Paper, such as:

- **curriculum structure impeding standards**
- **school budgets impeding standards**
- **disparity of funding impeding standards**
- **volume of change impeding standards**

We have tried to arrange direct contract but have failed to get anyone to talk to us.

We have been led to believe that you wish to enable Headteachers to raise standards.

Are you really listening to what we have to say?

The Shepway Council of Headteachers

هكذا من الإصل

FOCUS

LOMBARD TOP CLUB TROPHY

Today a dream comes true for 16 amateur golfers. **Geoff Harwood** introduces Europe's biggest pro-am tournament

1996 winners Ged Furey and Geoff Wilson: 110,000 amateurs were striving to emulate them this year

Steady hands needed as the cameras whirr

The surroundings at The Belfry, home of the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA), are as familiar to Doug Macdonald as the clubs in his bag. A businessman whose company shines the PGA's family silver, he played his first tentative strokes on the lush fairways of the Brabazon course before it was pitched to prominence by the Ryder Cup.

Such close proximity with the rise and rise of European golf did not immediately rub off, for it is only in recent times that Macdonald has progressed to a respectable 13 handicap.

Yet in the Algarve in the coming days, against the disconcerting whir of television cameras, Macdonald and Mike Passmore, the professional at his present club, Drayton Park — little more than a Tiger's drive from his old stamping ground — will tee off in the grand final of Europe's biggest pro-am tournament, the Lombard Top Club Trophy.

After the first-class success of the Ryder Cup, it is the turn of golf's club class to take the spotlight at San Lorenzo, less than a decade old yet already considered to be among the three finest courses on the Continent. For five days 16 pro-am pairs from across Britain and Ireland will be pampered like the professionals of the PGA European Tour.

The scale of the tournament, in only its third year, can be measured by the decision of Lombard, the country's largest finance house, to *invest a further £1.5 million to take* the Top Club Trophy to the millennium. "It works both as a sponsorship and a business issue. Sport does capture the imagination of people inside and outside the company," Stewart Legg, the group chief executive, says.

As winter turned to spring — with 110,000 amateur hopefuls from 1,100 clubs setting off on a series of qualifying rounds leading *to the regional finals* — Macdonald could only have dreamt of the pine-clad paradise at San Lorenzo.

"It *is certainly the* biggest sporting event I have ever been involved in," Macdonald says. "Anything *of this* proportion is quite mind-boggling. I have got to know a lot of people at my club because everyone is rooting for us. Everyone is pulling together."

Today, a party of 120 players, members of the back-up team and the cameras that will film the tournament, to be shown on Sky Sports on October 14, will be transported via TAP Air Portugal to their billet at the five-star Hotel Dona Filipa, at Vale do Lobo.

After a rigorous round of practice the grand final, played over 36 holes of better-ball medal play across two days, tees off on Sunday.

At stake, *from* a final prize-fund of nearly £22,000, is £4,000 for the winning professional — *and a chance to win* a Peugeot 106 for a hole in one at the par-three 5th — with golf clubs for his *amateur partner*.

For the PGA, the trophy is an opportunity to nurture golf's grass roots, *encouraging people* to take up the game, with the backing of Lombard, a player of such stature in the finance field that it advances *£115 million to its customers* every week. Sandy Jones, executive director of the PGA, explains: "The game of golf is about enjoyment and what we are trying to do with Lombard is to ensure that the club player has a wonderful golfing experience.

"Everyone will have been thrilled watching the Ryder Cup and now it is their turn. Here is something *that encompasses* a wide range of handicaps and a tremendously wide range of backgrounds."

The first professional to appear in two consecutive grand finals, *Marcus Groombridge*, was driven by the powerful desire to return to San Lorenzo this year. "It is a tremendous tournament. It gives the club players the chance of being *on television and there are some* very good players every year," he says. The advantages to his club, Slinfold Park, in West Sussex, have been tangible. "From an advertising *point of view, it has been of* massive benefit."

While the watchword of the Lombard event is *its friendliness, the* competition remains intense. The attention to detail of one of the professionals, Graham Bradley, of Blankney Golf Club, near *Lincoln*, is such that he will join the party from Valderrama, where he has been garnering knowledge that may be of use to him and his partner, Tony Rollitt, in the days ahead.

Macdonald, the joint-managing director of Target Cleaning plc — "once a month the PGA ask us to clean the trophies but not the Ryder Cup, that is locked away" — has been grooving his swing under the watchful eye of his professional. The nerves will come, he is in no doubt, under the glare of the cameras, but he believes that they have a chance of victory in Drayton Park's centenary year. "Mike and I are playing every morning this week," *Macdonald said*. "Mike will club me and read the greens and as he has played San Lorenzo a few times, that will help."

Some time after 3pm on Monday, *Stewart Legg will say a few* words and present the winners with the Lombard Top Club Trophy. Macdonald and his fellow competitors are hoping that, at San Lorenzo, the most polished performance will have been theirs.

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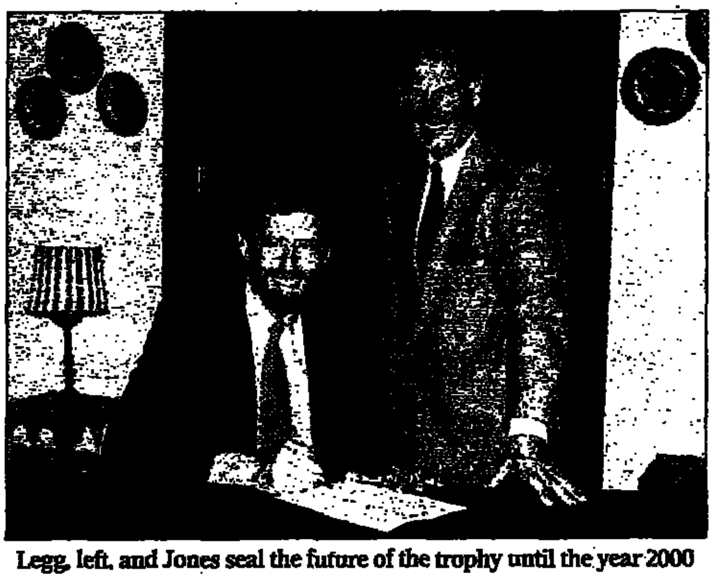
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE PGA



Legg, left, and Jones seal the future of the trophy until the year 2000

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Glittering gem of the Algarve

San Lorenzo allows little margin for error, **Mel Webb** says

San *Lorenzo is truly* the jewel in the magnificent tiara of exceptional golf courses that stud the Algarve coastline. It has been in existence for *less* than ten years, yet in that time it has achieved a place in a list of the top 100 golf courses in the world, and is ranked second in Europe.

The competitors in the Lombard event will be tested by this lay-out, designed by Joseph Lee, the leading American architect, and opened in 1988. There is not a hole that can be taken for granted; it is a thinker's course, one that needs sharp skills to negotiate the 6,824 yards it measures from the championship tees.

Most of the course weaves its sinuous way through the pine woods that are the feature of nearly all of the Algarve's golfing terrain. It also opens up in places to reveal awesome views of the ocean and the distant mountains.

A large part of the course is almost an extension of the beautiful estuary of the Ria Formosa, with fairways running alongside saltwater marshes and freshwater lagoons. The protected environment is the home for more than 70 species of birds. There can be few more spectacular places to play the Royal and Ancient game than here.

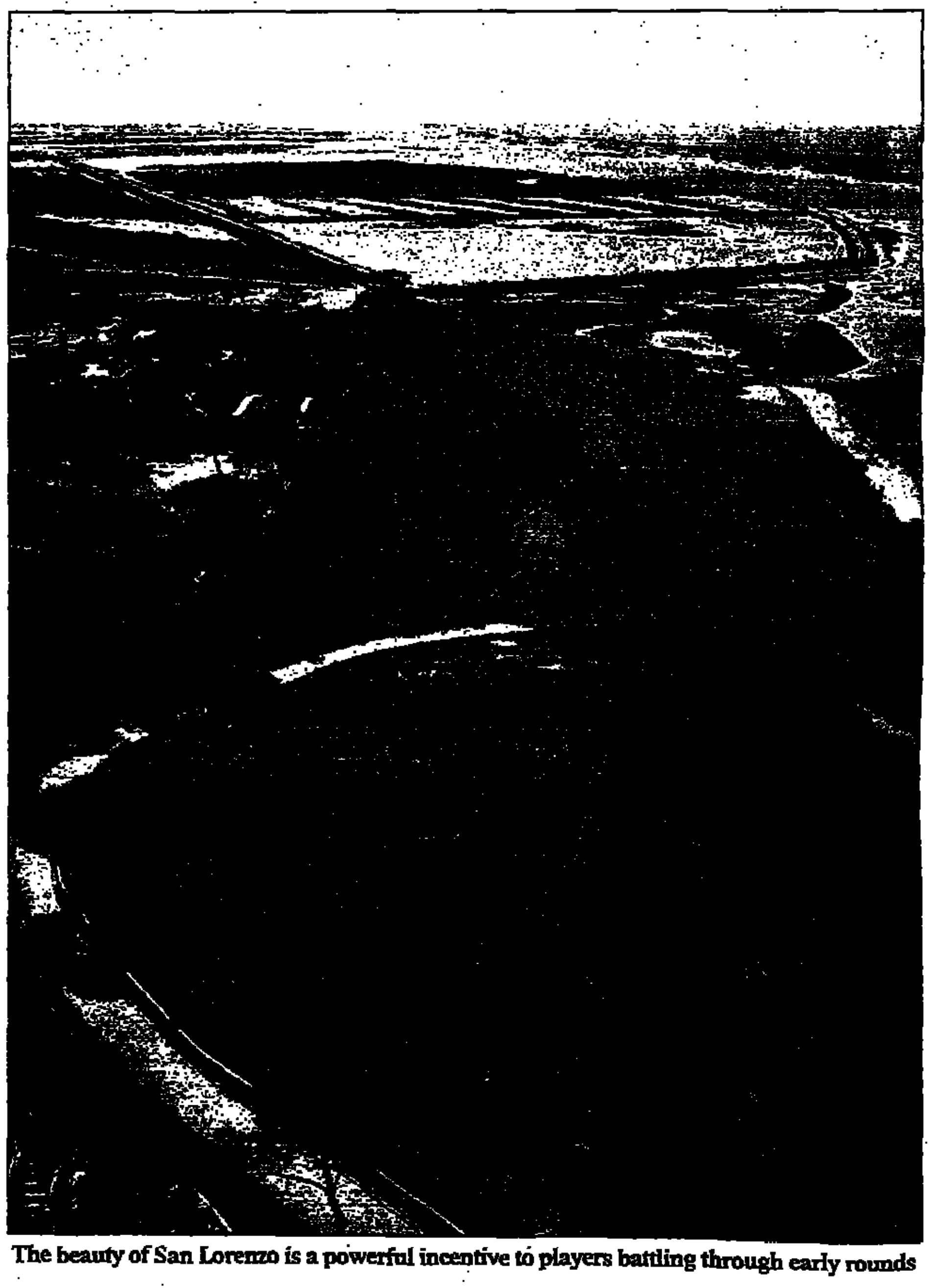
The course wastes no time in laying out its credentials. The first hole is 540 yards long, a right-to-left dogleg par-five which has bunkers on the elbow to catch the wayward tee-shot. The drive having been negotiated, the second shot weaves its way up a gently uphill valley which then bears right for the approach to the tiered green.

Taken in isolation it is demanding enough. But compared with what is to come, it is relatively undemanding, and therefore serves its purpose of instilling a false sense of security.

From there things get tougher. The 6th, one of the signature holes of the course, is both demanding and dramatic, an elevated tee looking down to the fairway with the estuary, sand dunes and ocean beyond. It is absolutely vital here to hit the fairway. There is no forgiveness on the left or right and water awaits the over-ambitious drive.

The 8th, a magnificent par-five of 575 yards, turns inland, bordering one of the inland lakes, which snake into the *fairway to define the second* and third shots. The length of the second shot will decide how much of the lagoon has to be taken on for the third.

You will not walk a pace around San Lorenzo without being made to think, to concentrate on the next shot. There is nowhere to bale out of trouble, nowhere where it is possible to take the timid line. What you see here is what you get, and it is trouble — albeit trouble surrounded by beauty — from first shot to last.



The beauty of San Lorenzo is a powerful incentive to players battling through early rounds

Lombard Top Club Trophy
Grand Final 3-7 October 1997
San Lorenzo, Portugal
Lombard acknowledges with thanks
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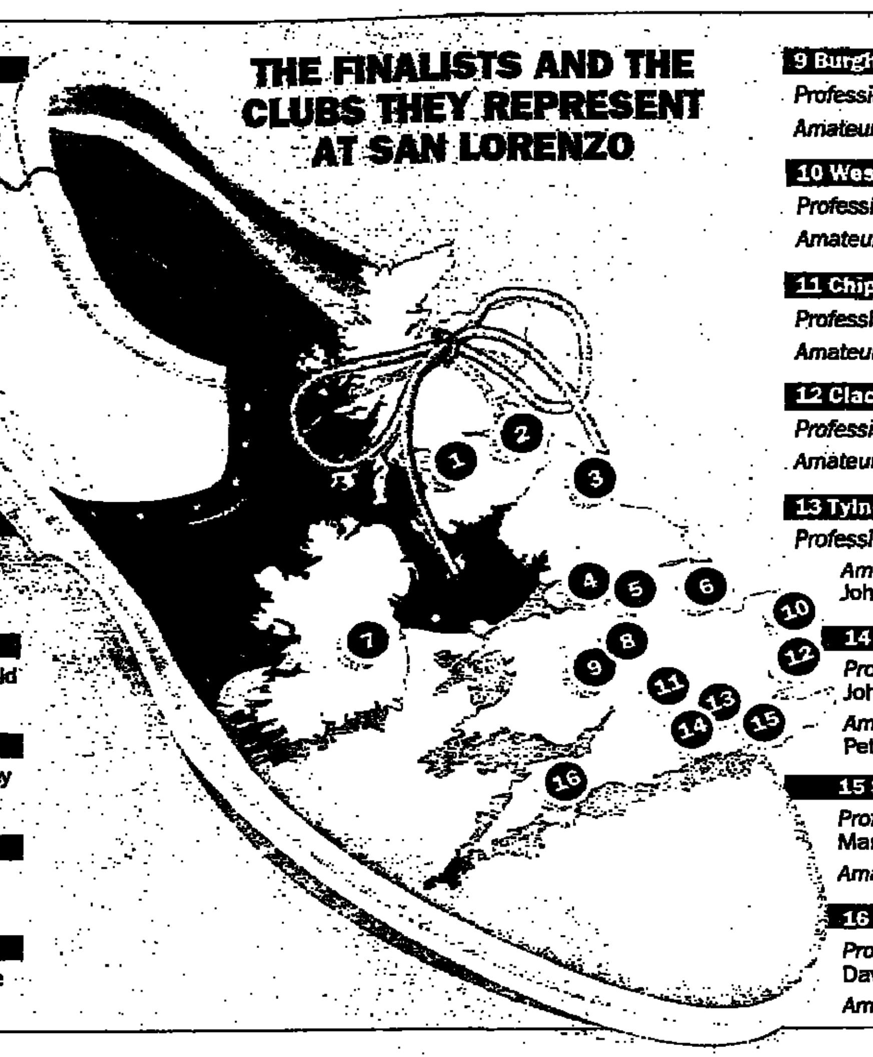
Which club will strike the ball most accurately?

Diamond cutters, plumbers, computer programmers and managers ... **Christopher Irvine** assesses the 32 finalists



THE FINALISTS AND THE CLUBS THEY REPRESENT AT SAN LORENZO

1 Whitecraigs
Professional: Alastair Forrow
Amateur: Iain Davidson

2 Uphall
Professional: Gordon Law
Amateur: Tom Mathieson

3 Whitley Bay
Professional: Gary Donnison
Amateur: Andrew Lucan

4 Leigh
Professional: Andrew Baguley
Amateur: Geoff Anderson

5 Prestwich
Professional: Simon Wakefield
Amateur: Peter Solski

6 Blankney
Professional: Graham Bradley
Amateur: Tony Rollitt

7 Slade Valley
Professional: John Dignam
Amateur: Leo Russell

8 Drayton Park
Professional: Mike Passmore
Amateur: Doug Macdonald

9 Burghill Valley
Professional: Nigel Clarke
Amateur: Paul Moses

10 Weston Park
Professional: Michael Few
Amateur: Rod Main

11 Chipping Norton
Professional: Derek Craik Jr
Amateur: Danny Hicks

12 Clacton-on-Sea
Professional: Stuart Levermore
Amateur: Paul Atkinson

13 Tylney Park
Professional: Chris DeBruin
Amateur: John Hartle

14 Worldham Park
Professional: John Le Roux
Amateur: Peter Skidmore

15 Slinfold Park
Professional: Marcus Groombridge
Amateur: Neil Jones

16 Tiverton
Professional: David Sheppard
Amateur: Lee Scott

CLACTON

Professional: Stuart Levermore, 47.
Amateur: Paul Atkinson, 33, bricklayer, 18 handicap.

Atkinson has the highest handicap of the grand final amateur qualifiers, but this did not prevent himself and Levermore, club professional for 17 years, from winning their regional final at Enfield. "It's fantastic to reach the final. Stuart and I just clicked," Atkinson, whose non-golfing passion is motorbikes, said.

SLADE VALLEY

Professional: John Dignam, 30.
Amateur: Leo Russell, 54, diamond cutter, 12 handicap.

Irish hopes are carried by this combination, who survived a strong field at County Louth. Russell is the oldest competitor in the field — his golfing life began at 40. "We're going out to win," he said. Dignam added: "We did well to qualify when only one team from Ireland goes through. The club's behind us and the captain is hoping to cheer us on."

CHIPPING NORTON

Professional: Derek Craik Jnr, 27.
Amateur: Danny Hicks, 25, leisure manager, 5 handicap.

Last-gasp victors at King's Norton, Craik, a former Scotland international, and Hicks, who shares the joint lowest handicap of the amateurs, form a powerful combination. In the regional final, Hicks holed a 50ft putt to win the penultimate game. He took up the sport nine years ago. Craik has the advantage of having played the San Lorenzo course.

DRAYTON PARK

Professional: Mike Passmore, 46.
Amateur: Doug Macdonald, 46, managing director, 13 handicap.

Macdonald has already had his hands on the Lombard Top Club Trophy. His firm are contract cleaners for the PGA at The Belfry. The regional final win at Beau Desert was his first. "This is a chance of a lifetime," he said. Passmore has been club professional for 24 years and is another man familiar with the Portuguese course.

The Lombard Trophy and the pair who won it last year, Ged Furey and Geoff Wilson, from the Pleasington club

[illegible]

Professional: Marcus Groombridge, 26.
Amateur: Neil Jones, 41, company director, 11 handicap.

Groombridge, former England schoolboy international and member of the Mastercard Tour for two seasons, finished 12th in last year's grand final, and with a new partner in Jones, who has only been playing golf for six years, is hoping to finish higher. The pair booked their final ticket with a six-under par 66 at Chartham Park.

[illegible]

Professional: Chris DeBruin, 46.
Amateur: John Hartle, 44, general manager, 17 handicap.

Hartle, the amateur partner of the Basingstoke duo, has an international sporting pedigree. He represented Singapore at rugby union and cricket and came to golf late at 39. DeBruin has been club professional for 23 years and appeared on the Tour in the Seventies. He played in a pro-am at San Lorenzo in February. "If John and I can fink as we did in the regional final at Test Valley, we've a good chance," he said.

TIVERTON

Professional: David Sheppard, 38.
Amateur: Lee Scott, 29, car sales executive, 17 handicap.

"We're going feeling confident and looking for at least a top three place," Sheppard, a member of the European Tour in the Eighties, said. 11-under-par at Exeter, the pair carded the best score of all the grand finalists. Scott gave the game up after winning a junior event but has come back strongly and still plays with the irons given to him as a boy.

BLANKNEY

Professional: Graham Bradley, 42.
Amateur: Tony Rollitt, 44, plumber, 12 handicap.

Bradley has travelled to San Lorenzo direct from Valderrama and is hoping that something of Europe's Ryder Cup triumph will have rubbed off. He is an experienced pro-am campaigner and Rollitt puts his performance in the regional final at Kedlestone Park down to the refinements to his swing by Bradley.

WHITLEY BAY

Professional: Gary Donnison, 22.
Amateur: Andrew Lucan, 33, computer programmer, 8 handicap.

The pair won on the testing Pannal course near Harrogate by one shot and had Donnison's birdie on the last hole to thank for a six-under par 66. With Lucan's reasonable handicap and Donnison's experience as a former England schoolboy international, albeit that he is the youngest competitor in the grand final, the pair are capable of performing well.

WORLDHAM PARK

Professional: Jon Le Roux, 25.
Amateur: Peter Skidmore, 29, club steward, 8 handicap.

The South African-born Le Roux was the 1996 Hampshire (PGA) matchplay champion. That and the fact that he has played the San Lorenzo course should stand this team, who had a six-under par 63 in the regional final at Sundridge Park, in good stead. Skidmore only took the game up three years ago — because he was picking up too many injuries in rugby union.

UPHALL

Professional: Gordon Law, 32.
Amateur: Tom Mathieson, 35, machine setter, 11 handicap.

The West Lothian pair were among the most impressive of all the regional final victors. Despite driving rain at Longniddry in June, they roared home on the inward nine to record a 64. Little wonder then that Law is confident they can do well in Portugal, come rain or shine.

WHITECRAIGS

Professional: Alastair Forrow, 29.
Amateur: Iain Davidson, 31, project manager, 5 handicap.

Forrow has already won one prize already this year — a car for a hole in one — and has his sights set on the Peugeot 106 for the player at San Lorenzo who manages the feat at the short fifth. In Davidson, he has an in-form partner, who shares the best handicap of the amateurs. They qualified at Buchanan Castle.

BURGHILL VALLEY

Professional: Nigel Clarke, 33.
Amateur: Paul Moses, 28, company team leader, 6 handicap.

Clarke, club professional for two years, enjoyed his first tournament win in the regional final, in harness with Moses, who is making his first trip abroad for the grand final. As well as a passport, he must remember to clean his clubs. The last time he used them was in the regional final victory at Puckrup Hall.

WESTON PARK

Professional: Michael Few, 33.
Amateur: Rod Main, 31, senior analyst, 6 handicap.

Few was a European Tour player for three years and has represented England and Great Britain. He has experience of Portugal having played once in the Portuguese Open. Main is club chairman and boasts having played 108 holes in a day. Their regional final success came at King's Lynn.

PRESTWICH

Professional: Simon Wakefield, 32.
Amateur: Peter Solski, 42, hotel golf course manager, 13 handicap.

In a tight finish to the regional final at Northorp, Wakefield and Solski defied driving rain and a trio of pairs on 68 to complete a winning 67, five under par. In his profession Solski gets the opportunity to practise and he has managed a few more hours than usual.

LEIGH

Professional: Andrew Baguley, 33.
Amateur: Geoff Anderson, 51, gas fitter, 10 handicap.

Baguley, eight years the professional at Leigh, represented Great Britain in the 1994 PGA Cup in Florida. The pair's experience saw them triumph in the regional final at Hesketh and Anderson is glad simply to have reached the climax to the competition in Portugal. "It helps playing with a perfectionist like Andrew," he said.

- *A report of the final will be published in* The Times *on Tuesday.*
- *Keep up to date with the final by calling the freephone number 0800 801 429.*

In sport Lombard has developed a broad sponsorship portfolio, from junior cricket to golf to rowing. **John Goodbody** reports

Pulling together and making a splash in sport

PATRICK EAGAR

MIKE HEWITT · ALLSPORT

Two sporting chances: Pakistan batsman Hassan Raza in the Lombard World Challenge final at Lord's, and Britain's coxless four row their way to victory in the world championships

Lombard has a long and distinguished record in sponsorship. It has stretched across 24 years and several sports and has developed and assisted both elite performers and grassroots activities.

As Stewart Legg, the group chief executive, says: "We don't just pay and walk away. As an active participant in sports sponsorship for many years, we have a real appreciation of what it takes to make sponsorship work and we use that knowledge to target our promotional resources for maximum impact."

Since Lombard is the United Kingdom's foremost supplier of motor finance, rallying was a natural choice when the group first started sponsorship in 1974, linking up with the RAC. The Lombard RAC Rally established itself as highly professional, dramatically increasing public awareness and enjoyment of the sport, and setting the standard for other international events.

By 1992, Lombard decided to withdraw from rally sponsorship because it wanted to promote the name and image of Lombard to a wider business audience. The group's activities had expanded extensively with Lombard also becoming the leading supplier of asset finance in the United Kingdom, providing contract hire and leasing facilities for everything from mainframes to medical equipment and trucks to tractors. Golf was the platform that Lombard was seeking. The sport, which attracts a large number of business people, provides an ideal way to put Lombard's name before a wide variety of enterprises.

Lombard decided that the best way of contributing to amateur golfers' enjoyment of the sport was to create a high quality, pro-am event in which any club member could participate.

In 1995, the first year of the tournament, Lombard set itself an entry target of 650 clubs, regarded as wildly over-optimistic by some commentators. In fact, by ensuring that the tournament was packaged as a leading event, from initial club mailings to the management of the five-day grand final at the luxurious San Lorenzo Golf Club, Lombard attracted 850 entries in 1995, rising to 1,000 clubs in 1996 and more than 1,100 in 1997. Within three years, the Lombard Top Club Trophy has become the largest event of its type in Europe and is billed as the premier pro-am in the calendar of the Professional Golfers' Association.

Having launched Lombard Direct, a 24-hour telephone loan service for the personal finance market, the group wanted to reach an even wider audience. It decided to link up with Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, whose Olympic gold medal rowing successes blended naturally with Lombard's "No 1 brand image".

Redgrave said: "Without Lombard's support, I wouldn't be going for my fifth successive gold medal at the Sydney 2000 Olympics." The sponsorship has extended to the pair's new rowing partners, Tim Foster and James Cracknell. The unbeaten duo of Redgrave and Pinsent have demonstrated this year that they are just as successful in a four as they were in a coxless pair, taking the world title last month. The Lombard name has been prominent in coverage at the World Cup and world championships.

It is not only the elite that has attracted Lombard, however. In 1996, the group supported the first-ever international cricket tournament for 15-year-olds. Junior sporting events rarely achieve a high profile, so the decision was based on a combination of passion for the game in high places and the fact that Lombard's community investment programme is biased towards development in young people.

With the English Schools' Cricket Association acting as host, the Lombard World Challenge was a huge success, with more than 10,000 people watching the final at Lord's between India and Pakistan. Lombard received the Institute of Sports Sponsorship award for the best new sponsorship for 1996.

Legg believes that Lombard's active involvement in the management and promotion of sponsorships, which carry their brand is essential. "Sponsorship isn't just about brand awareness. It also says something about the brand's values. We take care that every detail says Lombard is 'No 1' in every sense of the word."

It is an approach that pays dividends. Tod Evans, director, Commercial Operations, Peugeot Motor Company plc, says of the trophy: "Everything about this tournament reflects why we do business with Lombard."

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BOXING: CRITICAL AUDIENCE DEMANDS STYLISH PERFORMANCE FROM WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

Lewis prepares to press for respect

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN ATLANTIC CITY

ANDREW GOLOTA is a man to be avoided by those faint-hearted heavyweights who take up a career in the division simply to cash in on one big challenge for a world title. He is strong, technically capable and has a volatile temperament — yet he is the best thing that has happened to Lennox Lewis.

Certainly, a contest with the Pole makes good commercial sense for the World Boxing Council (WBC) champion. After Golota was disqualified twice in contests with Riddick Bowe, the former champion from the United States and once *Lewis's greatest rival*, there is public demand to see how he will fare against the Briton. As a result, Lewis stands to make a lot of money — around $10 million — from the bout being broadcast on pay-per-view television. Frank Maloney, his manager, said: "If he can get 400,000 buys, it's a home run." The show is expected *to pull in* 700,000 paying home customers in the United *States* at *$40* a time.

Yet Lewis, perhaps because of his distinguished amateur career, is more interested in titles than money. He wants to be recognised as the best heavyweight in the world, although to earn such acclaim could prove more difficult than becoming the undisputed world heavyweight champion. If Lewis defeats Golota, he will still have to convince the American press of his abilities, a critical group that, having known the golden age of Muhammed Ali, is hard to please. Only Larry Holmes has come up to its standards.

British heayweights have always been considered a joke, horizontal champions, by American boxing writers. They do not remember the heroic efforts of Tommy Farr, only the pathetic attempts of Brian London and Richard Dunn against Ali. Indeed, in a reappraisal of the heavyweight scene that followed the suspension of Mike Tyson after he bit Evander Holyfield earlier this year, the *Los Angeles Times did not* even name Lewis as a contender.

Meeting a high profile heavyweight like Golota has given Lewis a chance to make the Americans take a proper look at him. If he gives a worthy performance, he could one day become the first British heavyweight to gain recognition as the genuine article on this side of the Atlantic.

The view of Jon Saraceno, of USA Today, shows what a difficult task Lewis has before him. Saraceno said: "Lewis is the heavyweight champion of hesitancy. In the ring, only Michael Moorer exceeds his leeriness for combat. Truth is, Lewis didn't care for a long time. No determination, no commitment. He preferred partying in his native Jamaica to pushing himself. He changed trainers *the* way Mike Tyson changes Gucci loafers. He found Emanuel Steward [his trainer], but is it too late?"

Maloney remains pessimistic about Lewis's chances of convincing the Americans. Steward is convinced that if Lewis looks good against Golota, the American public will warm to him. "The American public needs a fight *against a creditable fighter*," Steward said. "Golota is such a fighter. Lennox has the talent to take British boxing to a level beyond where it has ever been. He fights to the level of his competition and Golota is the man to bring the best out of him.

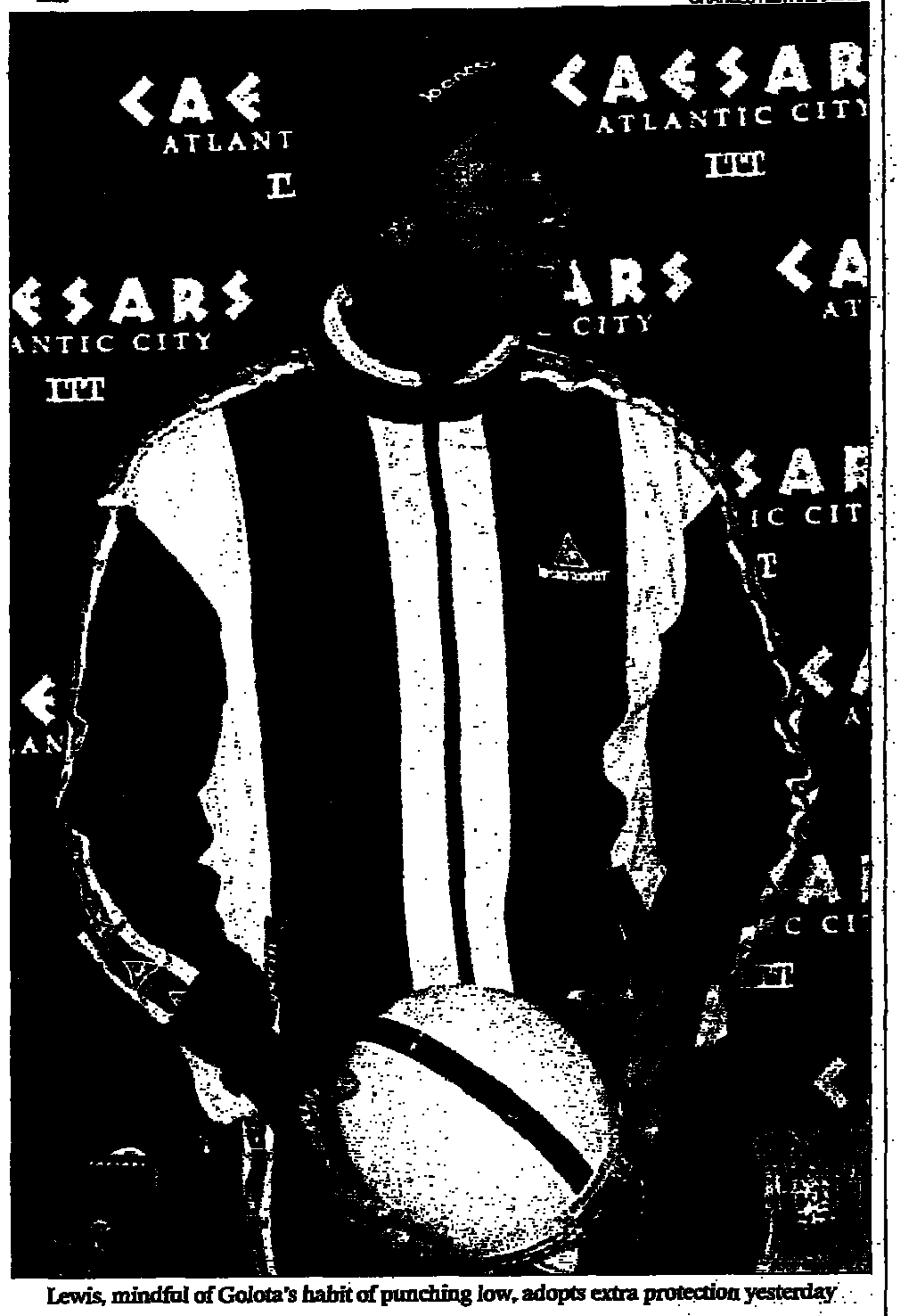
"If Lennox ever comes out and quits being analytical — I don't like him playing these chess games — there's no *heavyweight* in the world *to* stop him. The American public likes bad guys. Golota is a bad guy and so this is Lewis' chance to prove himself to the Americans."

Dino Duva, the head of Main Events, which promotes Lewis in the United States, said that Lewis had made some *mistakes* in his behaviour towards the American press and had given them the *impression that he was arrogant* and aloof, but he believed that this fault had been brought home to Lewis by Steward and he expects things to look brighter for the champion.

"Also, Lennox has been hurt by the fights he has had to fight," he said. "Court fights, mandatory fights after mandatory fights, vacant title fights and it's all taken a year and a *half* to get out of *the* way. All this has not helped him. They were not the best fights in the world and he didn't get the coverage. Now, with this fight against Golota, *he will be able to show* his talents and I promise you if he looks good, it won't be long before he starts getting the respect of American boxing writers. They have been slow to show respect but things are going to get warmer."

Golota: testing

CHARLES REX ARBOGAST



Lewis, mindful of Golota's habit of punching low, adopts extra *protection* yesterday

HOCKEY

Foreign influx adds spice to domestic scene

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

AFTER the excitement of the Junior World Cup at Milton Keynes, where England's under-21 team finished fourth, the focus of *attention switches to* the start of the National League season on Sunday.

At the end of the campaign in May, 16 players will be on their way to Utrecht, in Holland, for the World Cup, an event in which England finished fourth in Sydney in 1994. Training commitments for the World Cup will place an added strain on the players, *but to ease the pressure, the* premier and first division clubs will not join the Hockey Association Cup until the fourth round.

The influx of foreign players, notably from South Africa and Canada, has added extra flavour to the league. Greg Nicol, South Africa's centre forward, who, with Bram Lomans, of Holland, was joint top scorer with seven goals at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, has joined Surbiton.

The Surrey club are eager to regain their place in the premier division after being relegated, along with Havant, last season.

Craig O'Hagan and Gregor Maier, two other South Africans, have joined Southgate. Reading, the premier division champions, have recruited the Canadian, Mark Bartholomew, from British Columbia, and in midweek their ranks were swelled by Ranjeev Doel, another Canadian.

Old Loughtonians, who have lost Julian Halls to the Dutch club HDM, have two foreign reinforcements, Brian Myburgh, the South African goalkeeper, and Scott Smith, of Canada. Mike Cullen, of South Africa, returns to the first division club, Chelmsford, for another season, and is joined by three of his compatriots, Justin King, a deep defender, David Stanforth, an under-21 goalkeeper, and Michael Carr, a skilful midfield player.

On the home front, David Mathews, who distinguished himself at the Junior World Cup as a short-corner specialist, has moved from Guildford to Canterbury, who also have Sean Kerly, the former Great Britain centre-forward, on their playing list. Alistair Boyse, another prominent forward from the England Under-21 team, has left East Grinstead to join Lewes in the First Division.

Brett Garrard, who was captain of the England team at Milton Keynes, has left Guildford, but at present is listed as unattached.

Reading will travel onSunday to Doncaster, who earned promotion to the premier division, along with Beeston. Alan Stoves, the Doncaster player-coach, knows that the game represents a daunting baptism for his side, *but said*: 'If you are going to test yourself, you might as well do so against the best.'

However, Doncaster may be relieved to learn that they will not have to contend with Mark Pearn, the England Under-21 centre forward. He and Manpreet Kochar, another member of the England junior team, have been given a well-earned rest after being in training since the end of last season.

The senior England internationals, Simon Mason, in goal, and Jon Wyatt, are making the trip to Doncaster, but Reading will also be without Mark Hoskin, who has gone abroad, and his brother Howard, who has not recovered from injury.

Pearn: deserved rest

Hightown driven by Carr's U-turn

LINDA CARR'S retirement lasted 132 days. Given a stirring send-off after Hightown's cup final triumph at Milton Keynes in May, the former England and Great Britain captain will return to action tomorrow after being included in the Hightown *team to play* Ipswich (Cathy Harris writes).

"I never thought I'd miss it," said Carr, 41, who made more than 100 international appearances. "But I watched the season's opening match and it was really difficult *standing* on the sideline."

Tina Cullen, the captain, said that although Carr may not start the match, her presence in the young *Hightown* squad is invaluable. "Age is completely irrelevant," Cullen, the league's all-time leading goalscorer, said.

"She's still a superb player and gives the side stability. It's ironic that I'd only just finished getting everyone to sign her retirement card, so we presented it to her *at* training on Wednesday!"

Annalisa Bishop, Maria Hardiman, Kate Hendrick, Josie Kelso, Nicky O'Donnell and Kate Walsh, all schoolgirl internationals, are competing for places alongside Highdown's prominent England internationals, Cullen and the in-form goalkeeper, Carolyn Reid.

Ipswich, who trail the champions, Slough, on goal difference at the top of the table, recorded their best result last season when they won the corresponding fixture *6-1. Missing two key* players, Sarah Bamfield and Debbie Rawlinson, who are unavailable for business reasons, they may struggle to repeat that scoreline.

SNOOKER

Home comforts spur McManus

BY PHIL YATES

ALAN McMANUS avenged a painful defeat by beating Peter Ebdon, the holder, 6-3 in a quarter-final of the Regal Scottish Masters at Motherwell yesterday. However, the match turned in his favour on an outrageous slice of good fortune.

Breaks of 66 and 69 gave Ebdon a 2-1 lead but McManus, bitterly disappointed after losing to him in the final of the same tournament 12 months ago, drew *level at 2-2 with a break of 119* — his 90th century break in professional competition.

The fifth frame, which ultimately proved pivotal, was less clear cut. Ebdon cleared from the last red to pink, only to miss a tricky black using the rest, and two shots later a much simpler pot to a middle pocket.

McManus, as aware of the frame's potential psychological *impact as his opponent*, eventually fluked the black off two cushions to edge 3-2 ahead, and then, without putting together any contributions of significance, established a 5-2 advantage.

Ebdon has developed a deserved reputation for recovering from such positions, and McManus must have begun to experience a sense of concern when Ebdon duly prevented *him from* getting on the scoreboard in the eighth frame. On this occasion though, Ebdon's rally proved to be brief.

Battling it out in the kind of scrappy frame in which he so often revels, McManus, without a trophy success since the Thailand Open in March 1996, won the ninth to secure a meeting with John Higgins or Ronnie O'Sullivan in the semi-finals tomorrow.

McManus, who lives only a leisurely 20-minute drive from the venue, *said*: "I have *not* played well for some time, but being in your own backyard really helps.

"I am also comfortable in this sort of environment because I like playing the game's better players. I have never been frightened of them."

☐ The Team Gdeez Capital Management Stable, headed by Ian Doyle, the manager of *Stephen Hendry, the world* No 1, welcomed a new addition to their line-up yesterday when Anthony Hamilton, the world No 14, from Nottingham, signed a three-year contract.

Doyle, who also signed O'Sullivan during the close season, now manages 17 professionals, including Ken Doherty, the world champion, and nine members of the game's elite top 16.

RUGBY UNION

England's busy diary gives Brittle cause for concern

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) will press for a reduction in the number of international matches played in the pre-Christmas period next season. The RFU, worried that supporters will find the commitments this season indigestible, will propose to northern-hemisphere colleagues a *diet* of three matches at most.

Cliff Brittle, the RFU management board chairman, arrived at a Twickenham briefing yesterday on the heels of a technical exposition that showed players going over the top illegally in loose play. Brittle promptly agreed that his predecessors in office had also gone over the top by arranging four international matches on consecutive Saturdays in November-December.

England play New Zealand twice, Australia and South Africa in that period and Brittle said: "I think it is too *much, for the players, for the* clubs and for the whole game. We are receiving complaints from all sections of the game and we are talking to other unions to try to bring some consistency over interationals.

"I would like to arrange with other northern-hemisphere unions a window of five weekends before Christmas, during which each union agreed to play no more than three matches." As things stand, France play five internationals this autumn (including three in eight days during the Latin Cup), England four, Ireland three and Wales and Scotland two.

Roger Uttley, the England team manager, agreed that the existing schedule "errs on the *side of overkill*", *though he* and Clive Woodward, the coach, seek to expose England's leading players to regular examinations by teams from the southern hemisphere. "We need to challenge them on a regular basis if we are going to improve and challenge for the top prize — the World Cup," Uttley said.

The RFU is close to agreements over sponsorship of their five nations' championship matches and the game with New Zealand at Old Trafford on November 22, but they were able to confirm that the knockout competition, the second round of which is tomorrow, will be supported for the next four years by *Carlsberg-Tetley. The brewing* company is understood to be putting some £7 million into rugby, including not only the senior and junior cup competitions but the county championship at senior and under-21 levels.

Pilkington, the glass company, withdrew from a three-year agreement worth £1.1 million during the summer; it had sponsored the cup from 1988 but opted out after only one season of the latest agreement. The competition will now be known as the Tetley's Bitter Cup, with a prize fund in excess of £750,000 this season,. which will be increased during the next four years to more than £1 million. The cup winners will get £50,000, the losers £35,000.

Tony Rees, the Cardiff lock, has lost his appeal against a 90-day suspension imposed by European Rugby Cup Ltd after he was found to have stamped on Gareth Llewellyn, the Harlequins forward, during the Heineken Cup match last month.

Rees: lost appeal

IN BRIEF

Ijaz proves Pakistan's inspiration

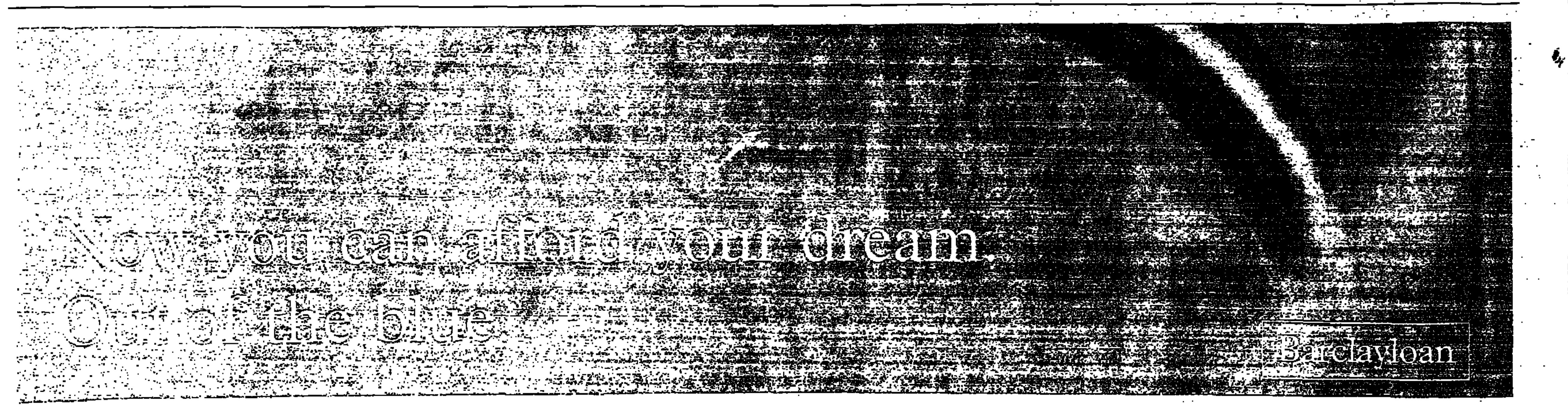
AN unbeaten innings of 139 by Ijaz Ahmed inspired Pakistan to a nine-wicket victory against India in the third and final one-day international in *Lahore* yesterday, securing the the series 2-1.

India were all out for 216 in 49.2 overs. Pakistan, with Ijaz opening the batting, reached the target in only 26.2 overs for *the loss of one wicket in the* only day-night encounter of the series. It was the first series between the traditional rivals to be played in Pakistan for eight years.

FOOTBALL: *The parent company* of Queens Park Rangers and Wasps rugby union club has confirmed that it is investigating a move to a new site along the M4 corridor as well as the possibility of expanding Loftus Road, the clubs' present ground.

GOLF: Toni Wiesner, a left-hander from Texas, won the British senior ladies' open championship at the first attempt at Frilford Heath yesterday after leading from the start. A 54-hole total of 231 gave Wiesner a five-stroke victory over Valerie Hasset, the defending champion.

FOOTBALL: *Anthony Bird*, ten, from Doncaster, has been given a five-month suspended ban by the Football Association after being sent off for swearing and hitting out in an under-11 match.



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RACING: SHEIKH HAMDAN PROFITS AS MORLEY PRODUCES NOTABLE DOUBLE AT NEWMARKET

Hayil helped by blinkered outlook

By Chris McGrath and Richard Evans

JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

The blinkered Hayil holds the challenge of Carrowkeel, right, in the Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket yesterday

YOU need to be a fairly single-minded sort to have the final say in a bidding duel at 500,000 guineas, which is how Hamdan al-Maktoum secured a Diesis filly at the Houghton Sales in Newmarket on Wednesday evening. Up the road on the Rowley Mile yesterday, it did not take long for the sheikh to profit from a similarly blinkered approach.

Hayil, whose victory in the Thoroughbred Corporation Middle Park Stakes helped defray the mind-boggling expenses of one of the sale's biggest spenders, was transformed by a pair of blinkers. It was precisely the same ruse that had enabled Fard, likewise trained by David Morley for Sheikh Hamdan, to win the 1994 running of a race that sometimes seems to cling to group one status by its fingertips.

The recent roll of honour does include Royal Applause, who competes for the sprint championship in the Prix de l'Abbaye at Longchamp on Sunday, and Rodrigo De Triano. But yesterday's field had won just eight of their 26 races, three of them remaining maidens, and — while the sheikh feels that his Dayjur colt might stay an easy mile next year — the best that can be hoped is that the blinkers keep Hayil suitably combustible in sprints.

Yesterday they enabled him to take it up two out and hold the late challenge of Carrowkeel by threequarters of a length. "He is tough little horse, 100 per cent genuine," Morley said. "But he sometimes doesn't concentrate, like a young girl staring out of the window during her school lessons. We tried the blinkers at home, but he wasn't electrifying or anything — he's not the type to over-exert himself."

The same should presumably be true of Morley, 58, who has weathered three heart operations. He said: "It's just wonderful to be able to train nice horses like this, it keeps you going."

Barry Hills reckoned Carrowkeel would have won on easier ground, but Arkadian Hero, sent off at odds-on, could not muster a challenge in fourth — prompting Luca Cumani to conclude that he had not recovered from a hard race at Newbury 12 days earlier.

Morley ensured that his patron's attention did not wander either as he ponders the destination of his new yearlings, by teeing up Hayil's win with a listed-race success for Intikhab in the Heath Court Hotel Joel Stakes. Intikhab, completing a treble, won in taking style, but his task was simplified by the favourite, Bin Rosie, refusing to knuckle down on the ground and finishing stone last.

Meanwhile, a radical shake-up in betting practices at racecourses looks set to be imposed on bookmakers after protracted negotiations aimed at reaching an agreement broke down irrevocably yesterday.

The Racecourse Association (RCA), which has been increasingly frustrated by the outdated practices of on-course bookmakers, yesterday terminated negotiations with the National Association of Bookmakers (NAB) and asked the Levy Board "to use its powers to secure the introduction of a new administrative structure for racecourse pitches".

The talks, aimed at modernising the way bookmakers operate on course, began in 1991 and included proposals for computerised betting receipts for punters and allowing bookmakers into members' enclosures.

Angus Crichton-Miller, chairman of the RCA, said yesterday: "There comes a point at which protracted discussions have to stop. I set a deadline in early September for the resolution of the outstanding issues between the RCA and NAB, but we are still at odds over some fairly major issues. We will give every help to the Levy Board to bring a modern customer-friendly system to our racecourse betting rings as soon as is practicable."

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.55 Braganza. 2.25 Means Business. 2.55 Jila. 3.30 Coolin River. 4.00 Bold Tina. 4.35 Spartan Heartbeat. 5.10 Gold Blade.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.55 JILA (nap).

GOING: FIRM DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

1.55 EBF BLOND MCINDOE MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-0: £3,556: 5f) (6 runners)

1	(5)	-	BRAGANZA D Loder 9-0	O Peslier	—
2	(1)	66	ROYAL INTERVIEW 168 M Channon 9-0	S Sanders	60
3	(4)	60	SACCHETTI 21 M Channon 9-0	J Carroll	77
4	(2)	2843	IRIS MAY 13 (B) J Berry 8-9	J Weaver	[illegible]
5	(6)	2	MISSED THE CUT 7 R Hannon 8-9	P Dobbs (7)	90
6	(3)		NEWALA W Haggas 8-9	F Lynch	—

4-6 Braganza, 5-1 Missed The Cut, 6-1 Iris May, 10-1 Newala, 12-1 Royal Interview, 16-1 Sacchetti.

2.25 GUINEA PIG CLUB CLAIMING STAKES
(2-Y-0: £2,277: 6f) (15)

1	(6)	5450	DERNIER CROISE 23 B Meehan 9-7	M Tebbutt	73
2	(13)	0	NOBLE PATRIOT 24 R Hollinshead 9-7	D Griffiths (3)	—
3	(5)	0509	BLUE SHADOW 7 (B) R Hannon 9-3	P Dobbs (7)	76
4	(7)	6033	CIRCUITEER 39 J Berry 9-3	C Lowther (5)	70
5	(1)	0051	LEGAL LARK 7 (D,F) P Howling 9-3	Paul Eddery	[illegible]
6	(9)	1530	MEANS BUSINESS 35 (B,C,F) B Meehan 9-1	J Weaver	89
7	(14)	0004	SERGEANT IMP 7 P Mitchell 8-13	O Peslier	78
8	(2)	0240	LASHAM 13 (F) N Callaghan 8-9	Cheryl Nosworthy (7)	87
9	(8)		OPENING NIGHT R Simpson 8-9	M Gallagher	—
10	(12)	0055	SLIM PRIOR 92 K Burke 8-9	J E Egan	—
11	(11)		WHIMWHEH A Jarvis 8-8	S Drowne	—
12	(3)	043	IMPULSIVE DECISION 41 M Meade 8-6	S Sanders	93
13	(15)	5125	BERMUDA TRIANGLE 42 (CD,F) M Haynes 8-4	R Mullen (5)	89
14	(4)	0600	LADY RALPHINA 12 J Bridger 8-4	J Quinn	60
15	(10)	0505	PINUP 7 G Lewis 7-12	N Adams	—

9-2 Legal Lark, 6-1 Dernier Croise, Impulsive Decision, 8-1 Circuiteer, Lasham, 10-1 Means Business, Sergeant Imp, Bermuda Triangle, Pinup, 12-1 others.

2.55 EBF BILLY LEVITA MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-0: £4,346: 6f) (15)

1	(8)	5260	ANVIL 83 G Lewis 9-0	Paul Eddery	[illegible]
2	(3)		BEST GUEST J Gosden 9-0	G Hind	—
3	(2)		DAHOMEY C Brittain 9-0	M Rimmer	—
4	(14)	66	DANGEROUS PRECEDENT 43 C Egerton 9-0	M Tebbutt	67
5	(9)		DARING DEREK D Loder 9-0	O Peslier	—
6	(1)		EASTER OGIL I Balding 9-0	Martin Dwyer	—
7	(15)	0	HEVER GOLF RANGER 23 T Naughton 9-0	J Weaver	66
8	(6)	0	HOUSE ON FIRE 47 J Berry 9-0	C Lowther (5)	—
9	(13)	3	JILA 18 R Armstrong 9-0	G Carter	81
10	(5)		MACH ONE M Prescott 9-0	C Nutter	—
11	(11)	00	MUYASSIR 18 C Brittain 9-0	T Williams	—
12	(7)		PRIMATICCIO M Prescott 9-0	S Sanders	—
13	(12)	04	ZERO THREE FIFTEEN 39 M Meade 9-0	R Havlin (3)	68
14	(10)	0	LADY IMZA 25 W Haggas 8-9	F Lynch	—
15	(4)		PEACEFUL SARAH P Mooney 8-9	W J O'Connor	—

11-4 Daring Derek, 3-1 Jila, 11-2 Best Guest, 7-1 Anvil, 8-1 Dahomey, 10-1 Easter Ogil, 12-1 Mach One, Primaticcio, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Loder, 19 winners from 54 runners, 35.2%; J Gosden, 17 from 69, 24.6%; M Prescott, 25 from 111, 22.5%; P Mooney, 4 from 19, 21.1%; Lord Huntingdon, 49 from 241, 20.3%; J Berry, 33 from 163, 20.2%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 85 winners from 398 rides, 21.4%; J Carroll, 11 from 55, 20.0%; D McKeown, 20 from 123, 16.3%; Mr T McCarthy, 5 from 31, 16.1%; D Griffiths, 8 from 55, 14.5%; R Havlin, 3 from 21, 14.3%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 3.30 Cd Newsround, Memorial. Newmarket: 3.05 Who Nose, Wuxi Venture.

3.30 CHAMPAGNE JACQUART NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-0: £3,746: 7f) (18)

1	(8)	6001	BAHAMIAN MELODY 24 (V,C,G) D Loder 9-7	O Peslier	90
2	(10)	0501	CHIEF BLADE 31 (D,G) R Akehurst 9-3	D Denby (7)	87
3	(2)	3450	MOHAWK 82 J Dunlop 9-3	G Carter	85
4	(13)	6564	FACE-OFF 16 C Wall 9-1	S Sanders	83
5	(15)	050	NARYEL 51 C Benstead 9-1	T Williams	76
6	(12)	000	ZAMARRA 25 D Chappell 8-13	Martin Dwyer	64
7	(7)	5406	COOLIN RIVER 28 K Burke 8-9	J F Egan	68
8	(18)	5540	MOUNTAIN MAGIC 18 D Ffrench Davis 8-9	J Weaver	73
9	(1)	3000	UP THE WALL 11 John Berry 8-8	J Quinn	73
10	(14)	4800	MEMORIAL 20 (B) R Hannon 8-6	C Rutter	70
11	(17)	000	OCEAN LINE 22 A Jarvis 8-5	S Drowne	66
12	(16)	0000	CD NEWSROUND 15 (V) M Channon 8-5	J Carroll	61
13	(11)	000	FUNG SHUI 25 R Hannon 8-4	D Biggs	58
14	(3)	0100	JATO DANCER 17 (D,F) J Arnold 8-1	P Doe (7)	75
15	(6)	0066	MISS MUFFETT 17 P Mooney 8-0	F Norton	71
16	(4)	000	SAXON VICTORY 13 W Haggas 8-0	G Bardwell	60
17	(9)	4360	SILENT PRIDE 14 M Usher 7-13	J Fowle (7)	[illegible]
18	(5)	0005	LAUREN'S LAD 9 (B) G Lewis 7-10	N Adams	64

3-1 Bahamian Melody, 4-1 Chief Blade, 7-1 Lauren's Lad, 8-1 Mohawk, 10-1 Mountain Magic, 12-1 Memorial, 14-1 Face-Off, Up The Wall, 16-1 others.

4.00 CABLE TECH HANDICAP
(3-Y-0: £3,746: 7f) (16)

1	(7)	0000	MASTERPIECE 31 R Hannon 9-7	W J O'Connor	74
2	(14)	0004	DAYLIGHT DREAMS 2 (G) C Cyzer 9-6	T Williams	75
3	(6)	3000	CHASETOWN FLYER 11 (F,G) N Berry 9-5	R Perham	70
4	(4)	6216	BOLD TINA 18 (D,F) R Hannon 9-5	C Lowther (5)	80
5	(13)	0632	MALABERIE 10 (BF,F) M Channon 9-3	J Carroll	[illegible]
6	(11)	1300	AQUATIC QUEEN 31 (F) C Dwyer 9-0	T E Durcan (3)	76
7	(2)	-450	BY JAY 111 B Curley 9-0	J Quinn	66
8	(16)	3000	CARLTON 31 (D,S) G Lewis 8-13	Paul Eddery	67
9	(1)	0003	AYBEEGIRL 119 (F) Mrs J Cecil 8-11	Martin Dwyer	69
10	(15)	2301	LAMORNA 13 (D,F) M Channon 8-10	C Rutter	71
11	(16)	6113	HOMESTEAD 5 (D,F,G) R Hannon 8-10	D Biggs	83
12	(5)	0000	HAWKSBILL HENRY 17 Mrs A Perrett 8-8	Gaye Harwood	70
13	(9)	0000	CHURCHILL'S SHADOW 9 B Pearce 8-4	D R McCabe	67
14	(3)	0030	WHIZZ KID 11 (F) J Bridger 7-13	G Bardwell	70
15	(8)	0006	BLUE CHEESE 70 J Jenkins 7-10	D O'Shea	64
16	(12)	6400	LOXLEY'S GIRL 55 H Akbary 7-10	A Polli (5)	61

5-1 Bold Tina, 6-1 Malaberie, 7-1 Homestead, By Jay, 8-1 Masterpiece, Daylight Dreams, 10-1 Chasetown Flyer, Lamorna, 12-1 others.

4.35 LEFA ENTERPRISES MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,837: 1m 6f) (9)

1	(9)		CORPORATE IMAGE 172J R Simpson 7-9-7	M Gallagher	—
2	(1)	43	DOUBLE STAR 32 J L Harris 6-9-7	Dean McKeown	68
3	(8)	65-2	SPARTAN HEARTBEAT 9 C Brittain 4-9-7	W J O'Connor	[illegible]
4	(3)	000/	STEAM ON 1401 Mrs L Jewell 6-9-7	S Drowne	—
5	(6)		BAWARA M Channon 3-8-12	J Carroll	—
6	(4)	0200	CRYSTAL HILLS 55 J Gosden 3-8-12	G Hind	68
7	(2)	0540	PADDY HURRY 55 N Callaghan 3-8-12	J F Egan	65
8	(7)	0	CHOICE LADY 34 J L Harris 3-8-7	A Culhane	60
9	(5)		GAILY GRECIAN Lord Huntingdon 3-8-7	S Sanders	—

11-8 Spartan Heartbeat, 11-4 Crystal Hills, 5-1 Gaily Grecian, 7-1 Double Star, 12-1 Bawara, 20-1 Paddy Hurry, 25-1 Corporate Image, 33-1 others.

5.10 MCINDOE AMATEUR RIDERS LIMITED STAKES
(£2,277: 1m 3f 106yd) (12)

1	(4)	0051	CIVIL LIBERTY 10 (F) G Lewis 4-11-0	A Balding	66
2	(11)	0140	RANDOM KINDNESS 13 R Ingram 4-11-0	L Jefford (4)	64
3	(10)	0405	ANOTHER FIDDLE 5 (F) J Long 7-10-12	R Blyth (6)	67
4	(12)	-004	DRAGON'S BACK 25 D O'Brien 4-10-12	V Lukaniuk (6)	60
5	(7)	4220	GOLD BLADE 14 (D,F,G) J Pearce 8-10-12	Mrs L Pearce	[illegible]
6	(3)	0434	NEWPORT KNIGHT 36 (BF,CD,F,G) R Akehurst 6-10-12	T McCarthy	74
7	(6)	0405	ROYAL ACCLAIM 30 (V,C,D,F,S) K Burke 12-10-12	Miss R J Palmen (6)	70
8	(9)	0000	SARUM 30 (F) J Long 11-10-12	T Waters (6)	60
9	(1)	0580	SHEEP STEALER 14 R Peacock 9-10-12	Mrs C Peacock (6)	58
10	(8)	3335	BON GUEST 56 (G) Miss B Sanders 3-10-6	Miss L Sheen (6)	66
11	(2)	504	LAUREL SEEKER 133 Mrs A Perrett 3-10-6	Mrs A Perrett	57
12	(5)	0000	PATRITA PARK 30 W G M Turner 3-10-3	Miss C Stretton (6)	60

7-4 Newport Knight, 11-4 Civil Liberty, 6-1 Gold Blade, 10-1 Royal Acclaim, Bon Guest, 14-1 Laurel Seeker, 16-1 Dragon's Back, 20-1 others.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Newmarket

Going: good (good to firm in places)

1.30 (1m 4f) 1, WATER FLOWER (M Hills, 10-1); 2, Durgams First (A Culhane, 16-1); 3, Royal Diversion (O Peslier, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Break The Rules, 6 Naval Games (4th), 7 Statajack, 8 Spartan Royale, 10 Final (5th), Once More For Luck, 12 Go Hence, 20 At Liberty, 33 Belmarita (6th), Dauphin, 50 Monacle. 14 ran. ½l, nk, ¾l, 1¼l, ½l. J Fanshawe at Newmarket. Tote: £12.90; £3.00, £5.60, £2.70. DF: £256.60. Trio: £454.90. CSF: £149.44

2.05 (5f) 1, BLISS (J Quinn, 6-1); 2, Shawdon (G Duffield, 7-1); 3, Ivory's Joy (Martin Dwyer, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Nuclear Debate, 13-2 Folklore, 8 High Carry (5th), 9 Midsummer Night (4th), 10 Solo Spirit, 11 Eleventh Duke, 16 Eastern Lyric, 20 Mighty Sure (6th). 11 ran. NR: Gipsy Moth. ½l, ½l, ½l, 1l, hd. Mrs P Duffield at Sedlon. Tote: £8.00; £1.80, £3.10, £2.60. DF: £26.60. Trio: £33.50. CSF: £45.42. Tricast: £321.38

2.35 (1m) 1, INTIKHAB (R Hills, 11-4); 2, Swiss Law (L Dettori, 4-1); 3, Polish Rhythm (J Reid, 50-1). ALSO RAN: Evens fav Bin Rosie (6th), 11 Ramooz (4th), 16 West-A-Minute (5th). 6 ran. 2l, ½l, nk, 1¼l, nk. D Morley at Newmarket. Tote: £3.80; £1.70, £1.90. DF: £5.60. CSF: £12.93.

3.10 (6f) 1, HAYIL (R Hills, 14-1); 2, Carrowkeel (M Hills, 15-2); 3, Designer (O Peslier, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 10-11 fav Arkadian Hero (4th), 4 Victory Note (5th), 15-2 Captain Tim, 12 Bemsha Swing (6th), 50 Celtic Pageant. 8 ran. ¾l, nk, 1¾l, 3l, 2l. D Morley at Newmarket. Tote: £16.80; £2.30, £1.90, £2.20. DF: £45.80. CSF: £104.40

3.40 (5f) 1, DASHING BLUE (L Dettori, 2-1 fav); 2, Bishops Court (J Fortune, 11-2); 3, Tipsy Creek (R Hills, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 100-30 Blue Iris, 8 Almaty (6th), 10 Bolshoi (5th), 12 Croft Pool (4th), 20 Hello Mister. 8 ran. Nk, hd, 1¾l, 2l, 1l. I Balding at Kingsclere. Tote: £2.70; £1.30, £2.50, £1.30. DF: £10.50. CSF: £12.85.

4.15 (7f) 1, QUIET ASSURANCE (R Hills, Evens fav); 2, Connoisseur Bay (J Reid, 12-1); 3, Minivet (M Fenton, 50-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Sinan, 13-2 Wayne Lukas, 11 Wandering Wolf, 12 High Noon, Joint Regent (4th), 20 White Scissors (6th), 25 Frankie Ferrari, Mondschein, Regal Patriarch, Top Gear, 33 Zobaida, 50 Ambiguous, Cromer Pier, Empire State, Honest Borderer (5th), My Tyson, Northern Lass, Richmond Hill, Rock Sounds. 22 ran. 1¼l, 5l, 1¾l, nk, 2½l. E Dunlop at Newmarket. Tote: £2.40; £1.40, £5.50, £14.70. DF: £22.70. Trio: £1,063.20 (part won. Pool of £748.78 carried forward to 4.00 Lingfield Park today). CSF: £14.89.

4.45 (5f) 1, DOMINANT AIR (G Duffield, 5-1); 2, Kram (J Quinn, 20-1); 3, Passionatti (T Williams, 25-1); 4, Shalstayholy (C Lowther, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 4 fav Caution, 11-2 First Principle (5th), 7 Storyteller, 8 Sally Anokato (6th), 10 Eurolink Profile, Sally Green, 16 Bramble Bear, 20 Loganlea, 25 Ice Age, 33 College Princess, Divide And Rule, 50 Tinker's Surprise. 16 ran. ½l, ½l, sh hd, hd, nk. M Prescott at Newmarket. Tote: £5.30; £1.70, £4.60, £4.90, £2.00. DF: £89.20. Trio: £708.50. CSF: £105.24. Tricast: £2,189.21.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £15,826.76 carried forward to Newmarket today).

Placepot: £463.60.

Quadpot: £32.50.

Hereford

Going: good to firm (good in places)

1.45 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Exalted (T Jenks, 5-1); 2, Almuhtaram (8-1); 3, Iamus (4-7 fav). 8 ran. 4l, 11l. W Jenks. Tote: £7.10; £1.40, £1.70, £1.10. DF: £16.60. CSF: £41.29

2.20 (2m 3f ch) 1, Mozemo (A P McCoy, 3-1); 2, Plas-Hendy (11-10 fav); 3, Man Mood (10-1). 7 ran. 8l, 2½l. M Pipe. Tote: £3.60; £1.40, £1.10. DF: £2.80. CSF: £6.73. No bid.

2.55 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Amitge (A P McCoy, 2-13 fav); 2, La Dolce Vita (7-1); 3, Minster Star (12-1). 4 ran. 4l, 2l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.10. DF: £1.60. CSF: £1.65.

3.30 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Bemapour (A P McCoy, 4-11 fav); 2, Royal Circus (5-2). Only two finished. 3 ran. 3½l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.40. DF: £1.30. CSF: £1.67.

4.00 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Commanche Creek (A P McCoy, 7-4 jt-fav); 2, Kinlogh Gale (12-1); 3, Persian View (7-4 jt-fav). 6 ran. 13l, 3l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.80; £1.50, £2.60. DF: £12.50. CSF: £20.30

4.35 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, The Brewer (R Bellamy, 13-2); 2, Honeybed Wood (4-1); 3, Ragamuff (7-2). Sicanan 9-4 fav. 7 ran. NR: Gunny's Girl. 1¾l, 9l. J Tuck. Tote: £9.30; £2.20, £2.20. DF: £16.70. CSF: £32.16. Tricast: £99.34.

Placepot: £7.30.

Quadpot: £8.30.

Taunton

Going: firm

2.15 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Northern Drums (B Fenton, 5-1); 2, Aerial View (14-1); 3, Little Hooligan (5-1). Ikatak 15-8 fav. 10 ran. 1l, 1¾l. N Babbage. Tote: £6.50; £1.40, £2.80, £1.80. DF: £36.60. Trio: £46.00. CSF: £61.05

2.45 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Dolce Notte (C Maude, 6-4); 2, PC's Cruiser (13-2); 3, See Prosperity (25-1). General Glow Evens-fav (f). 4 ran. Dist, 12l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.60. DF: £5.40. CSF: £8.82.

3.20 (2m 3f ch) 1, Fenwick (J Harris, 2-1 fav); 2, Northern Singer (9-4); 3, Prerogative (3-1). 4 ran. NR: Boro Vacation, Castleconner. 24l, 24l. R Hodges. Tote: £2.30. DF: £3.00. CSF: £6.17

3.50 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Almapa (T Dascombe, 11-10); 2, Sport Of Fools (12-1); 3, Cointosser (Evens fav). 3 ran. NR: Courageous Knight. 3½l, 2l. R Hodges. Tote: £1.90. DF: £6.30. CSF: £6.76.

4.25 (2m 3f ch) 1, Indian Temple (G Supple, 6-4 fav); 2, Can't Say (11-4); 3, Pair Of Jacks (11-4). 5 ran. 6l, 20l. K Bishop. Tote: £2.50; £1.30, £1.70. DF: £2.60. CSF: £5.76.

4.55 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Top Shelf (W Worthington, 2-1); 2, Beryllium (4-7 fav); 3, Abbey Theatre (9-1). 3 ran. NR: Praise Minstrel. 16l, dist. P Bevan. Tote: £3.10. DF: £1.20. CSF: £3.33.

Placepot: £733.70.

Quadpot: £84.00.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: PRENDS CA
(4.15 Newmarket)
Next best: Abreeze
(3.05 Newmarket)

RACELINE
0930 168+
COMMENTARY RESULTS
NEWMARKET 101 201
LINGFIELD 102 202
HEXHAM 103 203
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

Abreeze to confirm promise

NEWMARKET

CHANNEL 4

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.05: Mons takes a big drop in class but has not raced since being pipped in the Yorkshire Cup in May, and this trip looks on the short side. However, Luca Cumani's strong galloper should ensure a decent pace. Memorise continues to improve, having been runner-up to Busy Flight at Doncaster last time, and he has been shining on the home gallops.

However, **The Fly** must be the choice, having finished an excellent third in the St Leger (Shaya seventh). Barry Hills' runner travelled particularly well at Doncaster and has sufficient speed to cope with the step back in distance.

2.35: Mr Bergerac ran his best race this term in the Ayr Silver Cup, finishing strongly after being outpaced early on. However, he has never won over seven furlongs and there must be stamina doubts. **Al Muallim** is the form choice. At Doncaster last time, he was pipped in the final stride by Safio when arguably having the worst of the draw. The key to Pip Payne's horse is being held up until the last moment — something Tony McGlone failed to do when he was on board at Newmarket six weeks ago. Madly Sharp usually runs well here and is well treated on his best form, but has lost the winning habit.

3.05: The unbeaten Bintang is the form pick but on both starts he has tended to be very keen and pulled hard early on. It remains to be seen how much Paul Cole's runner will progress. The bookmakers could hardly give away **Abreeze** when he made his debut at Sandown, but the market proved all wrong as the Godolphin runner quickened clear of his rivals in *taking style to win by five* lengths in a decent time.

With considerable improvement likely, he looks worth backing. Haami was not suited by the soft ground at Sandown last time and it would be no surprise to see John Dunlop's well-regarded runner reverse the form with Tracking.

3.40: **Kewarra**, partnered by the excellent Tim Sprake, is a tentative choice in a difficult race for punters. Rod Millman's runner recorded a career best performance when winning a fast-run race at Chepstow three weeks ago and the form was boosted when the runner-up subsequently hacked up next time.

Silverani and Desert Horizon return from lengthy absences but would have claims if at their best, while Ihtiyati is another for the shortlist after being headed in the final strides at Doncaster 20 days ago.

Richard Evans

HEXHAM

THUNDERER

2.15 Pentland Squire. 2.45 Flying North. 3.20 All Clear. 3.50 Mercury. 4.25 Tighter Budget. 5.00 Castle Red. 5.30 Ben Doula.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.15 KARNHEATH CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,011: 2m 4f 110yd) (6 runners)

1	55-1	PENTLAND SQUIRE 13 (F) J Jefferson 6-11-5	A K Smith (5)
2	012-	TOSHIBA TALK 48F (F) B Ellison 5-11-5	C McCormack (3)
3	-00F	BERNERA 13 J Mackie 5-10-12	E Husband
4	P0	GOLDLINER ALFIE 38 Miss M Rowland 5-10-12	P Midgley
5		ANOTHER PICEA 456F A J Lockwood 4-10-11	E Callaghan
6	00-	LAST ACTION 214 J Norton 4-10-6	B Grattan

4-5 Pentland Squire, 6-4 Toshiba Talk, 14-1 Last Action, 16-1 Bernera, 33-1 Goldliner Alfie, 50-1 Another Picea.

2.45 SERVICE WELDING NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,259: 2m) (6)

1	00-	JUMBO'S DREAM 211 J Dixon 6-10-12	B Storey
2	454-	ORCHARD KING 125 G McCourt 7-10-12	D Bridgwater
3	45-5	RUBISLAW 120 Mrs K Lamb 5-10-12	Miss S Lamb (7)
4		FLYING NORTH 20F Mrs M Reveley 4-10-11	P Niven
5	000-	RESPECTING 158 J A Moore 4-10-11	N Smith
6		SQUANDAMANIA 698F J Norton 4-10-11	D Byrne

4-6 Flying North, 2-1 Orchard King, 14-1 Rubislaw, 16-1 Squandamania, 25-1 Jumbo's Dream, Respecting.

3.20 MUSE AND COMPANY HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,736: 2m 110yd) (8)

1	213-	MARBLE MAN 219 (D,F,S) M Pell 7-11-10	D Bentley
2	-434	BLAZING DAWN 34 (D,F,S) J Hubbuck 10-11-0	K Johnson
3	259U	PAPARAZZO 17 G M Moore 6-10-10	R Thornton (3)
4	/341	ANOTHER RED 13 (D,F,S) W Raw 9-10-9	R McGrath (5)
5	-282	CARDENDEN 13 (D,F,G) J Barclay 9-10-4	C McCormack (7)
6	32-6	ALL CLEAR 13 (D,B,S) J Howard Johnson 6-10-0	A Dobbin
7	-424	SALEM BEACH 17 M Todhunter 5-10-0	M Moloney
8	0440	EARL GRAY 13 (B,F,G) A J Lockwood 10-10-0	Miss A Deniel

11-4 Another Red, 7-2 Cardenden, 5-1 Paparazzo, 11-2 Marble Man, 6-1 Blazing Dawn, 8-1 All Clear, 10-1 Salem Beach, 33-1 Earl Gray

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G M Moore, 14 winners from 69 runners, 20.3%; B Ellison, 6 from 34, 17.6%; J Howard Johnson, 14 from 84, 16.7%; Mrs M Reveley, 7 from 50, 14.0%; J Jefferson, 3 from 28, 10.7%.

JOCKEYS: N Bentley, 13 winners from 45 rides, 28.9%; A Dobbin, 25 from 102, 24.5%; E Callaghan, 4 from 18, 22.2%; B Grattan, 3 from 14, 21.4%; P Niven, 18 from 89, 20.2%; A S Smith, 3 from 26, 11.5%.

3.50 BUILDING MAINTENANCE COMPANY SELLING HURDLE
(£1,994: 2m) (10)

1	5-32	NONIOS 17 (F) G M Moore 6-11-5	N Hannity (7)
2	00P-	DARK MIDNIGHT 121F (B) D Lamb 8-10-12	J Burke
3	000/	HYA PRIM 535 N Chamberlain 6-10-12	B Storey
4	00P-	NUKUD 41F (V) G Oldroyd 5-10-12	J Supple
5	0-23	DIG FOR GOLD 31F Miss S Hall 4-10-11	N Bentley
6	5	MERCURY 14 J Glover 4-10-11	O Pears
7	0-00	WESTERN VENTURE 3 M Wane 4-10-11	A S Smith
8	P446	MEADOWLECK 17 W Young 8-10-7	A Dobbin
9	P	PHILGEM 17 C Fairhurst 4-10-6	J Callaghan
10	6S	SERAPE 17 M Pell 4-10-6	D Bentley

11-8 Nonios, 7-4 Dig For Gold, 9-2 Mercury, 8-1 Western Venture, 16-1 Serape, 20-1 Dark Midnight, Meadowleck, 25-1 others

4.25 BELLWAY PLC HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,223: 3m 1f) (10)

1	4142	TIGHTER BUDGET 6 (C,D,F,G,S) Dianne Sayer 10-12-0	A Dobbin
2	/1F-	RHOSSILI BAY 426 (BF,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-12	P Niven
3	4/P-	OVERFLOWING RIVER 188 (CD,F,G) J Wade 8-11-4	A S Smith
4	234-	SEEKING GOLD 217 (D,F,G) J Barclay 8-11-4	B Storey
5	1-U3	CUMBERLAND BLUES 13 (CD,F,G) A J Lockwood 8-10-13	Miss A Deniel
6	14-0	MANOR RHYME 23 (D,G) J McConnochie 10-10-3	B Powell
7	6P0-	DALUSMAN 154 (F) J Howard Johnson 9-10-1	D Bridgwater
8	6442	WALLS COURT 9 (B,F,G) J Balfett 10-10-0	M Moloney
9	-654	JAUNTY GIG 13 (B,CD,F,G) J Birkett 11-10-0	L O'Hara
10	F5-0	JONAEM 9 (F) Mrs E Slack 7-10-0	K Johnson

15-8 Rhossili Bay, 3-1 Tighter Budget, 7-2 Walls Court, 11-2 Seeking Gold, 10-1 Manor Rhyme, 12-1 Cumberland Blues, 16-1 Dalusman, Jaunty Gig, 20-1 others

5.00 ROBSON BROWN COMMUNICO NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,364: 3m) (7)

1	4615	SUSELJA 41 (F) J Jefferson 6-11-0	E Callaghan (3)
2	000-	ARCTIC FOX 169 Mrs M Reveley 5-10-12	P Niven
3	02-U	CASTLE RED 12 J Wade 6-10-12	S Taylor (5)
4	5F-4	GALE AHEAD 21 (D,F,G) G M Moore 7-10-12	B Storey
5	0	PADDYS ON A ROLL 13 Mrs H Graham 8-10-12	Mr M Bradburne (7)
6	66F-	SMILE PLEEZE 174 Mrs M Sish 5-10-12	M Foster
7	P6-6	TARTAN JOY 120 J A Moore 6-10-12	N Smith

2-1 Gale Ahead, 3-1 Suselja, Arctic Fox, 7-2 Castle Red, 25-1 Smile Pleeze, Tartan Joy, 33-1 Paddys On A Roll.

5.30 FEDERATION BREWERY STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,187: 2m) (7)

1	66-2	BEN DOULA 13 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4	G Lee (3)
2	423-	CERTAIN SHOT 184 G McCourt 6-11-4	D Ford (3)
3	PP-0	SKY RUNNER 13 (F) M Mulineaux 6-11-4	Mr S Prior
4	2	AMOEBIC 8 M Todhunter 4-11-3	C McCormack (7)
5		CHAPARRO AMARGOSO B Ellison 4-11-3	M H Naughton (5)
6		EXCURSION Miss S Hall 4-11-3	R Thornton (3)
7	5	KNAYTON KNIGHT 13 J Jefferson 4-11-3	E Callaghan (3)

7-4 Ben Doula, 9-4 Certain Shot, 4-1 Amoebic, 8-1 Excursion, 10-1 Knayton Knight, 20-1 Chaparro Amargoso, 25-1 Sky Runner

NEWMARKET

THUNDERER

2.05 Mons
2.35 *Kayvee*
3.05 Haami
3.40 Blewbury Hill
4.15 Lochangel
4.50 STRAZO (nap)

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.05 TRACKING.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.05 Abreeze. 3.40 Silverani.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.05 RACING POST GODOLPHIN STAKES
C4

(Listed race: £11,601: 1m 4f) (4 runners)

101	(2)	4245-32	MONS 141 (F,G) (Mrs E Vestey) L Cumani 4-9-0	L Dettori	116
102	(3)	4141d22	MEMORISE 21 (G) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 3-8-7	K Fallon	117
103	(4)	2-22210	SHAYA 20 (G) (H al-Maktoum) W Hern 3-8-7	R Hills	111
104	(1)	14-1503	THE FLY 20 (G,S) (Mrs J Corbett) B Hills 3-8-7	M Hills	127

BETTING: 13-8 Mons, 7-4 The Fly, 3-1 Memorise, 8-1 Shaya.

1996: BUSY FLIGHT 3-8-11 M Hills (11-8 fav) B Hills 4 ran

FORM FOCUS Mons short head 2nd to Celeric in 1¾m group II York stakes (good), previously 1½l 3rd to Time Allowed in 1½m Newmarket group II stakes (good to firm). Memorise 3l 2nd to Busy Flight in 1½m listed Doncaster stakes (good). The Fly 3¼l 3rd to Silver Patriarch in 1¾m Doncaster St Leger (good to firm) with Shaya (same terms) 11l 7th

THE FLY is taken to uphold classic form

2.35 CHARLES WELLS BOMBARDIER BITTER HANDICAP
C4

(£8,469: 7f) (13 runners)

201	(5)	0/005-P	PRINCE OF INDIA 90 (F,G) (Sir Gordon Brunton) Lord Huntingdon 5-9-7	L Dettori	—
202	(6)	4020011	HIGHBORN 35 (CD,F,G,S) (Yorkshire Racing Club) P Felgate 8-9-7	D Sweeney (3)	105
203	(12)	5113-62	SERENITY 79 (C,F) (Dr C Wills) J Fanshawe 3-9-4	K Fallon	104
204	(2)	5006124	CONCER UN 12 (BF,D,F,G,S) (Miss L Ward) S C Williams 5-9-0	K Darley	107
205	(11)	-501000	TRIPLE HAY 30 (G) (Broadgate Partnership) R Hannon 3-8-13	Dane O'Neill	105
206	(3)	15-6403	BACHELORS PAD 20 (F) (Mrs D Allen) W Jarvis 3-8-12	W Ryan	99
207	(9)	1002552	HAWAIT 20 (B,D,F) (M al-Maktoum) B Hills 3-8-11	P Fessey (3)	97
208	(10)	310-254	ALL IS FAIR 14 (BF,F) (Mrs K Rausing) M Prescott 3-8-9	G Duffield	109
209	(4)	41-4132	AL MUALLIM 22 (F,G) (Al Muallim Partnership) J W Payne 3-8-7	A McGlone	112
210	(8)	0603362	KAYVEE 6 (D,F,G,S) (J Richmond-Watson) Mrs A Perrett 8-8-7	A Clark	114
211	(13)	-000000	MADLY SHARP 13 (CD,F) (Lord Swaythling) J Watts 6-8-7	J Fortune	125
212	(1)	5210505	MR BERGERAC 13 (F,G,S) (P John) B Palling 6-8-7	T Sprake	112
213	(7)	313530	MR SPONGE 13 (D,F) (P Mellon) I Balding 3-8-5	M Hills	111

Long handicap: Mr Bergerac 8-5, Mr Sponge 8-2

BETTING: 11-2 Al Muallim, 6-1 All Is Fair, Hawait, Madly Sharp, 7-1 Kayvee, 8-1 Highborn, 10-1 Concer Un, 12-1 Bachelors Pad, 14-1 Serenity, 16-1 Mr Bergerac, Mr Sponge, 20-1 others

1996: HIGHBORN 7-8-10 W Ryan (25-1) P Felgate 12 ran

FORM FOCUS Highborn beat Concer Un (1lb better off) neck in 7f Chester handicap (good to soft) with Mr Bergerac (5lb better off) 3¾l 5th. Serenity 3l 2nd to Imroz in 7f Yarmouth fillies' stakes (good). *Triple Hay 37l 12th to Double Action in 6f York handicap (soft).* Bachelors Pad 2¼l 3rd to Law Commission in 7f Goodwood handicap (good). Hawait ½l 2nd to Russian Music in 1m Doncaster handicap (good to firm). All Is Fair 4¼l 4th to Jorrocks in 7f Newbury handicap (good). Al Muallim ½l 2nd to Safio in 7f Doncaster handicap (good to firm) with Mr Bergerac (1lb better off) 6½l 14th. Kayvee 2½l 2nd to Jo Mell in 7f Ascot handicap (good to firm). Madly Sharp 4¾l 11th to Wildwood Flower in 6f Ayr handicap (good to soft). Mr Bergerac 3½l 5th to Perryston View in 6f Ayr handicap (good to soft)

AL MUALLIM can be rewarded for some consistent efforts

3.05 *SOMERVILLE TATTERSALL STAKES*
C4

(Listed race: 2-Y-0: £8,954: 7f) (8 runners)

301	(6)	1	ABREEZE 17 (D,G) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 8-9	L Dettori	101
302	(5)	1041	AIX EN PROVENCE 48 (F,G) (J Featherstone & D Bird) M Johnston 8-9	D Holland	102
303	(7)	11	BINTANG 20 (F,G) (Al Muallim Partnership) P Cole 8-9	T Quinn	111
304	(2)	113	HAAMI 35 (BF,D,G) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 8-9	R Hills	111
305	(1)	21	ICEBAND 21 (G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-9	W Ryan	106
306	(8)	1122	TRACKING 35 (D,F,G) (Buckram Oak Holdings) H Cecil 8-9	K Fallon	117
307	(4)	3522043	WHO NOSE 21 (V,F,G) (Abbott Racing Ltd) B Meehan 8-9	K Darley	94
308	(3)	3363	WUXI VENTURE 13 (B) (Dr F Chao) S Woods 8-9	J Reid	101

BETTING: 2-1 Abreeze, 5-2 Bintang, 5-1 Haami, Tracking, 7-1 Iceband, 14-1 Aix En Provence, 33-1 others.

1996: GRAPESHOT 8-9 L Dettori (5-4 fav) L Cumani 8 ran

FORM FOCUS Abreeze beat Dark Moondancer 5l in 7f Sandown maiden (good). Aix En Provence beat Mihnah 2½l in 6f Ripon stakes (good to firm). Bintang beat Sky Rocket 1¼l in 6f Doncaster stakes (good to firm). Iceband beat Title Bid 3l in 6f Goodwood stakes (6f, good). Tracking ½l 2nd to Little Indian in 7f group III Sandown stakes (good to soft) with Haami (same terms) 2l 3rd

TRACKING could offer some value against Abreeze and Bintang

3.40 JAMES LEVETT HANDICAP
C4

(3-Y-0: £6,160: 1m 2f) (9 runners)

401	(2)	22-12	SILVERANI 143 (BF,G) (P Silver) L Cumani 9-7	K Darley	113
402	(4)	41-4448	DESERT HORIZON 63 (S) (K Abdulla) J Gosden 9-6	L Dettori	119
403	(8)	01-3302	IHTIYATI 20 (F) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-6	R Hills	114
404	(7)	2243146	TITTA RUFFO 13 (D,G) (M Lanfranchi) B Meehan 8-4	G Duffield	118
405	(1)	-061115	FANTAIL 29 (D,F,S) (Pamela, Lady Nelson of Stafford) M Tompkins 8-2	M Henry (3)	111
406	(3)	3533101	KEWARRA 22 (D,F,G) (G Palmer) B Millman 8-1	T Sprake	108
407	(5)	-500260	MY VALENTINA 6 (S) (D Deer) B Hills 7-11	P Fessey (3)	106
408	(9)	3-33052	DEEP WATER 77 (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 7-10	N Carlisle	109
409	(6)	4462003	BLEWBURY HILL 14 (A Pye-Jeary) R Johnson Houghton 7-10	R Ffrench (3)	109

Long handicap: Deep Water 7-9, Blewbury Hill 7-7.

BETTING: 3-1 Silverani, 7-2 Ihtiyati, 7-1 Kewarra, Blewbury Hill, 8-1 Desert Horizon, Fantail, 10-1 My Valentina, Deep Water, 12-1 Titta Ruffo

1996: NAJM MUBEEN 8-12 M Roberts (16-1) A Stewart 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Silverani 2l 2nd to The Fly in 1¼m York handicap (good). Desert Horizon 4¼l 6th to Future Perfect in 1¼m Goodwood handicap (good to firm). Ihtiyati ½l 2nd to Infatuation in 1¼m Doncaster handicap (good to firm). Titta Ruffo 6l 6th to Sharp Consul in 1¼m Newbury handicap (good to firm). Fantail 18l 5th to Arctic Owl in 1½m York handicap (soft). Kewarra beat Bubble Wings short *head in 1¼m Chepstow handicap (good). My Valentina 8l 7th to Saaleya in 1¼m Haydock handicap* (good to firm). Deep Water ½l 2nd to Irsal in 1½m Salisbury handicap (good)

SILVERANI'S York second to The Fly takes the eye

4.15 NGK SPARK PLUGS FILLIES HANDICAP (£7,717: 6f) (9 runners)

501	(3)	u308011	WILDWOOD FLOWER 13 (D,F,G,S) (G Howard-Spink) R Hannon 4-9-7	Dane O'Neill	117
502	(2)	21-340	LOCHANGEL 6 (D,F) (J Smith) I Balding 3-8-10	T Quinn	123
503	(7)	1320	WELLSPRING 84 (D,G) (E Loder) D Loder 3-8-8	K Fallon	107
504	(5)	0431210	PLAISIR D'AMOUR 13 (D,F,G) (M Tabor/Mrs J Magnier) N Callaghan 3-8-7	L Dettori	116
505	*(9)*	*8522001*	*PATSY GRIMES 6 (D,F,G,S) (J Grimes) J S Moore 7-8-7 (3ex)*	P P Murphy (3)	114
506	(4)	0114004	BOWDEN ROSE 5 (B,D,F,G) (G Bailey/N Hall) M Blanshard 5-8-7	D Sweeney (3)	114
507	(8)	5602021	PRENDS CA 12 (CD,F,G,S) (B Bull) W Muir 4-8-7	J Reid	112
508	(6)	1122112	ALMASI 13 (D,F,G,S) (Equema Partnership) C Wall 5-8-7	Jo Hunnam (5)	120
509	(1)	6600230	DANCETHENIGHTAWAY 44 (F,S) (G Busley) B Meehan 3-8-6	G Duffield	104

Long handicap: Bowden Rose 8-6, Prends Ca 8-6, Almasi 8-5, Dancethenightaway 8-2

BETTING: 7-2 Wildwood Flower, 4-1 Plaisir d'Amour, 5-1 Lochangel, 6-1 Almasi, 7-1 Prends Ca, 8-1 Patsy Grimes, 10-1 Wellspring, 12-1 others

1996: PRENDS CA 3-9-0 Pat Eddery (13-2) R Hannon 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Wildwood Flower beat Double Action ¾l in 6f Ayr handicap (good to soft) with Plaisir D'Amour (6lb better off) 10l 22nd. Lochangel 6¼l 9th to Elnadim in 6f Ascot group II stakes (good to firm). Wellspring 12l 7th to Bint Albaadiya in 6f York listed stakes (good); previously 2½l 2nd to Bint Albaadiya in 6f Newmarket stakes (soft) with Wildwood Flower (10lb worse off) 4½l 3rd. Patsy Grimes beat Ancellman neck in 5f Haydock handicap (good to firm). Bowden Rose 3l 4th to Tedburrow in 5f Ascot handicap (good to firm). Prends Ca beat Stand Tall 2½l in 6f Haydock handicap (good). Almasi 1¼l 2nd to Perryston View in 6f Ayr handicap (good to soft), previously beat Prends Ca (6lb worse off) neck in 6f Haydock stakes (good to soft)

PRENDS CA can repeat last year's success in a competitive event

4.50 FURTHER FLIGHT LIMITED STAKES (£5,640: 1m) (7 runners)

601	(4)	0-60240	STRAZO 43 (BF,D,F,S) (E Rastall) Lady Herries 4-9-0	R Cochrane	117
602	(2)	021	DR MARTENS 53 (D,F) (R Griggs Group Ltd) L Cumani 3-8-13	L Dettori	95
603	(1)	-012020	GREAT CHILD 43 (D,S) (S Sabatini) M Channon 3-8-13	J Reid	104
604	(6)	02510	MIDYAN CALL 13 (F) (L Garesi) M Bell 3-8-13	M Fenton	104
605	(7)	-250302	RAPIER 56 (D,F) (Mrs A Kane) R Hannon 3-8-11	Dane O'Neill	106
606	(3)	31	CHANGE FOR A BUCK 157 (D,S) (Buckram Oak Holdings) H Cecil 3-8-10	K Fallon	99
607	(5)	2003426	FIRST CHANCE 17 (BF) (M Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) D Elsworth 3-8-8	R Ffrench (3)	96

BETTING: 3-1 Dr Martens, 4-1 Strazo, Change For A Buck, 5-1 Rapier, 7-1 Great Child, Midyan Call, 20-1 First Chance

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS Strazo 15l 7th to Conspicuous in 1m Salisbury handicap (good). Dr Martens beat Tonight's Prize neck in 1m Windsor maiden (good). Great Child 17l 9th to Concer Un in 1m York handicap (good). Midyan Call 21l last of 29 to Wildwood Flower in 6f Ayr handicap (good to soft). Rapier 1l 2nd to Atlantic Desire in 1m Salisbury stakes (good to soft). Change For A Buck beat Epworth ½l in 1m Nottingham maiden (good to soft).

DR MARTENS appeals as a type to progress

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H Cecil	45	182	24.7	R Ffrench	3	22	13.6
M Prescott	3	15	20.0	K Fallon	14	111	12.6
D Loder	14	80	17.5	R Hills	20	171	11.7
J Gosden	29	188	15.4	M Hills	27	251	10.8

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FOOTBALL

Hoddle's Roman road smoothed by United labour

By Oliver Holt, football correspondent

ALEX FERGUSON, the Manchester United manager, was, as usual, up early yesterday morning. Instead of heading towards the club training ground at The Cliff in Salford, he drove down the M6 to Birmingham, to address the FA Coaches Association Conference. At midday, he stood up and began his lecture on Key Issues in the Technical Development of Players.

If his audience was rapt, it was because 16 hours earlier Ferguson had given a compelling practical demonstration of his subject in front of more than 53,000 people who crammed into Old Trafford. On Wednesday night, the development of Manchester United's players, both technical and temperamental, was there for all to see.

A year earlier, United had slumped to two straightforward, clear-cut defeats to Juventus; overawed at first, outplayed later. When Alessandro del Piero opened the scoring for the Italian champions after 24 seconds in the rerun in the second round of group matches in the European Cup Champions' League on Wednesday, it looked as if Ferguson's team had gone backwards.

Instead, United refused to be cowed, refused to give up. This time they fought back. They stayed calm while raising their determination to fever pitch. Gary Pallister made a perfectly-timed tackle on Filippo Inzaghi that warmed the heart. Teddy Sheringham was the soul of invention once more, Ryan Giggs flew down the left wing, teasing and tormenting, Paul Scholes played with the assurance of a veteran and David Beckham was everywhere.

The 3-2 victory for United was the first time for 18 years that Juventus had succumbed to English opposition, and all this against a United team shorn of Roy Keane, forced to substitute Nicky Butt and play Phil Neville, usually a wing back, in the centre of midfield for the last third of the match. As the supporters hugged each other in the stands at the final whistle, they were celebrating not just an isolated win but the debunking of the myth of superiority that surrounded Juventus and Italian football.

"I wish that people would get it into their heads that Juventus is not invincible," Marcello Lippi, their coach, said after the game.

"There has been an exaggerated respect for Juventus, in particular, for too long," Paul Ince, the Liverpool captain, who spent two highly successful years in Serie A with Internazionale, said yesterday. "People should start recognising the strides that English clubs have made and that England have made, too, under Terry Venables and Glenn Hoddle."

The apologists for the Italians will say that the sending off of Didier Deschamps 24 minutes from the end changed the course of the game, but Juventus were only paying the price for their own ill-discipline, their failure to contain United by legitimate means.

Lippi suggested that United were lucky in the second half but he acknowledged, too, that Juventus had been fortunate in their match in Manchester last season. Ferguson had a stroke of luck, too, when running repairs pushed him into moving Giggs out to the left, where he went on to excel, and bringing on Scholes, who scored such a wonderful second goal. Sheringham appeared to be clearly offside on that occasion, but United have suffered such reverses in the past. These things even themselves out and United deserved their breaks on this autumn night.

Pallister: perfect timing

The win leaves them three points clear at the top of group B, with Juventus, Feyenoord and Kosice, who already seem to be out of their depth, toiling in their wake. Ferguson spoke darkly of how United might regret the last minute goal they conceded to Zidane's mesmeric free kick, but even if United slip up in the Stadio delle Alpi on December 10, they are now well placed to qualify for the quarter-finals as one of the best runners-up.

In Italy, of course, the result was greeted with dismay, especially in the light of the World Cup showdown between Italy and England that takes place in the Olympic Stadium in Rome a week tomorrow. "If Italy needed some kind of clue as to how that match is going to go," *La Gazzetta dello Sport* said yesterday, "last night's disaster at Old Trafford was a preview."

In *Il Corriere della Sera*, the tone was much the same. "We cannot afford any more mistakes," the paper agonised. "We just have to hope that the English make a few. What happened last night was much worse than anyone could have predicted."

The extent of the Italians' psychological trauma is understandable. It is conceivable that seven of the United players who performed so commendably on Wednesday night, and beat the best club side that Italy has to offer, will start the match for England in Rome.

No wonder one of the other speakers at the Coaches Conference seemed to derive particular pleasure from Ferguson's lecture. That man was Glenn Hoddle.

PAUL BATES

Gary Neville, left, adds to the acclaim erupting around Giggs after the United forward's exquisite goal

Fate conspires against Asprilla

By David Maddock

THE Olympic Stadium in Kiev is a huge concrete tribute to Soviet minimalist architecture. It is a dark, forbidding structure, full of imposing chambers and shadowy corners.

It is an easy place to get lost, and on Wednesday night one such wrong turning led into a room inhabited by a solitary, brooding figure. The moody stranger turned out to be Valery Lobanovsky, the celebrated coach of Dynamo Kiev. He was, he said, even an hour after the final whistle, trying to come to terms with a draw in the Champions' League against Newcastle United.

Lobanovsky is a menacing character, a coach of the old school, who in two previous stints with Dynamo led them to two triumphs in the Cup Winners' Cup. A smile does not come to his lips naturally. He is surly, almost as second nature, so when at the final whistle he turned his back on Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, it came as no surprise. Lobanovsky refused to shake hands because he felt there had been an injustice. He felt the English team had stolen a point when their performance deserved nothing but heavy defeat.

He had a point. Whichever way you look at it Newcastle were lucky, almost staggeringly so, in the manner in which they survived a trouncing for 70 minutes before sneaking back almost shamefaced into the game, with two streaky goals.

But fortune such as that inevitably comes at a price and for Newcastle it was a heavy one. They may have won an important point in Kiev, given the surprisingly open nature of group C, but they lost in the process their most important player. Faustino Asprilla limped from the pitch after 27 minutes on Wednesday night and it is unlikely that he will play a game for at least a month.

Stepping off the aeroplane at Newcastle airport in the early hours of Thursday morning, Asprilla explained that he had a serious groin injury that appeared ominously like a hernia problem. He saw the same specialist yesterday who operated twice to repair Alan Shearer's hernia and the prognosis is not good.

At the very least, the Colombian forward will miss the next month, at the worst he could be absent for up to eight weeks, which would keep him out of the remaining Champions' League games.

It is hard to over emphasise Asprilla's importance to Newcastle at present. In the absence of Shearer he has become a central figure and provides just about all the attacking options the North East club present. Even if Dalglish was to buy a replacement, the new signing would not be eligible to play in the remaining Champions' League group matches.

So just as it appears that Newcastle have a wonderful opportunity of reaching the quarter-finals, the man most likely to put them there has been ruled out. His replacement will have to be Ian Rush, a forward who knows all about European triumph, but one who has scored only two goals in the past year.

If that is not a tricky enough problem for Dalglish, then listen to the words of Lobanovsky after the match on Wednesday, bemoaning the gods that conspired against his side. "Newcastle deserve nothing, they came here without ambition and paid the price, and I still cannot understand how they escaped with a point," he said.

Newcastle did not play well, but the fact remains that they now have four points from two extremely difficult matches and, in the same group, both Barcelona and PSV Eindhoven have just one from the same number of games. It may be that group C will come down to the last game of the series, when Kiev visit St James' Park. It should be some match.

Holdsworth wanders to Bolton in £3m move

By David Maddock

DEAN HOLDSWORTH will complete a £3 million transfer to Bolton Wanderers this morning after agreeing terms with the FA Carling Premiership side last night. He had a medical at the Reebok Stadium yesterday and quickly accepted a five-year contract that will earn him in excess of £1 million.

It was not a decision that troubled Holdsworth for long. "I had to get away from Wimbledon because I did not have much of a first-team opportunity towards the end of my time there," he said yesterday. "I enjoyed my time in London, but I have to think of my career and I need first-team football. Colin Todd [the Bolton manager] impressed me and he made a good job of selling the club. Bolton are clearly going places and I think there is now a sound financial structure in place for us to do well".

Todd has been searching for a striker since guiding Wanderers back into the FA Carling Premiership after a record-breaking promotion season. His search took on a more significant meaning two weeks ago when his first-choice forward, Nathan Blake, was sent off against Manchester United and received a three-match ban.

Lee Sharpe, 26, the Leeds United winger, will not play again this season. He has been out since damaging anterior cruciate ligaments in his knee in a pre-season match on August 2 and will undergo surgery next Wednesday.

Sheffield Wednesday have completed the £800,000 signing of Petter Rudi, the Norway midfield player. The 23-year-old has signed a 3½-year contract and could make his debut against Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday, October 19. He is contracted with Molde until then.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League

First division

Huddersfield v Nottingham Forest (7.45)

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Drogheda v Sligo (7.45); Shelbourne v Cork (7.45).

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Wick v Burgess Hill

RUGBY UNION

Heineken Cup

Pool B

Ulster v Wasps (7.30) ....

European Conference

Pool A

Bristol v Agen (7.30) ....

RUGBY LEAGUE

World club championship

Quarter-finals

Auckland v Bradford (9am) ....

Wigan v Hunter Mariners (7.30) ....

OTHER SPORT

GOLF: Central England open mixed foursomes (at Woodhall Spa).

SPEEDWAY: Challenge: Phil Bishop-Lokeren Best Pairs (at Arena Essex, 8.0). Amateur League: Oxford v Buxton (7.30); Peterborough v Exeter and Newport (7.0); Peterborough v Belle Vue (8.30).

TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (at Nottingham).

CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE TABLES

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B Dortmund	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Parma	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Sparta Prague	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Galatasaray	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

RESULTS: Galatasaray 0 Borussia Dortmund 1; Sparta Prague 0 Parma 0; Borussia Dortmund 4 Sparta Prague 1; Parma 2 Galatasaray 0.

MATCHES TO COME: Oct 22: Parma v Borussia Dortmund, Sparta Prague v Galatasaray. Nov 5: Borussia Dortmund v Parma; Galatasaray v Sparta Prague. Nov 26: Parma v Sparta Prague; Borussia Dortmund v Galatasaray. Dec 10: Sparta Prague v Borussia Dortmund; Galatasaray v Parma.

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man United	*2*	*2*	*0*	*0*	*6*	*2*	*6*
Juventus	2	1	0	1	7	4	3
Feyenoord	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
FC Kosice	*2*	*0*	*0*	*2*	*0*	*5*	*0*

RESULTS: FC Kosice 0 Manchester United 3, Juventus 5 Feyenoord 1; Feyenoord 2 *Kosice 0; Manchester United 3 Juventus 2.*

MATCHES TO COME: Oct 22: Manchester United v Feyenoord; FC Kosice v Juventus. *Nov 5: Feyenoord v Manchester United;* Juventus v FC Kosice. Nov 26: Manchester United v FC Kosice; Feyenoord v Juventus. *Dec 10: FC Kosice v Feyenoord; Juventus v* Manchester United.

Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo Kiev	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Newcastle Utd	2	1	1	0	5	4	4
Barcelona	2	0	1	1	4	5	1
PSV Eindhoven	2	0	1	1	3	5	1

RESULTS: PSV Eindhoven 1 Dynamo Kiev 3; Newcastle 3 Barcelona 2; Barcelona 2 PSV Eindhoven 2; Dynamo Kiev 2 Newcastle 2.

MATCHES TO COME: Oct 22: Dynamo Kiev v Barcelona; PSV Eindhoven v Newcastle. Nov 5: Barcelona v Dynamo Kiev; Newcastle v PSV Eindhoven. Nov 26: Dynamo Kiev v PSV Eindhoven; Barcelona v Newcastle. Dec 10: PSV Eindhoven v Barcelona; Newcastle v Dynamo Kiev.

Group D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Rosenborg	2	1	0	1	6	5	3
Olympiakos	2	1	0	1	2	5	3
FC Porto	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

RESULTS: Real Madrid 4 Rosenborg 1; Olympiakos 1 FC Porto 0; FC Porto 0 Real Madrid 2; Rosenborg 5 Olympiakos 1.

MATCHES TO COME: Nov 5: FC Porto v Rosenborg; Olympiakos v Real Madrid. Nov 26: Rosenborg v Real Madrid; FC Porto v Olympiakos. Dec 10: Real Madrid v FC Porto; Olympiakos v Rosenborg.

Group E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Paris S-G	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Besiktas	*2*	*1*	*0*	*1*	*3*	*3*	*3*
IFK Gothenburg	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

RESULTS: Bayern Munich 2 Besiktas 0; *Paris Saint-Germain 3 IFK Gothenburg 0;* IFK Gothenburg 1 Bayern Munich 3; Besiktas 3 Paris Saint-Germain 1.

MATCHES TO COME: Nov 5: IFK Gothenburg v Besiktas; Paris Saint-Germain v Bayern Munich. Nov 26: Besiktas v Bayern Munich, IFK Gothenburg v Paris Saint-Germain. Dec 10: Bayern Munich v IFK Gothenburg; Paris Saint-Germain v Besiktas.

Group F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting Lisbon	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Monaco	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
B Leverkusen	2	1	0	1	1	4	3
Lierse	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

RESULTS: Sporting Lisbon 3 Monaco 0; Bayer Leverkusen 1 Lierse 0; Lierse 1 *Sporting Lisbon 1; Monaco 4 Bayer* Leverkusen 0.

MATCHES TO COME: Oct 22: Monaco v *Lierse;* Sporting Lisbon v Bayer Leverkusen. Nov 5: Lierse v Monaco; Bayer Leverkusen v Sporting Lisbon. Nov 26: *Monaco v Sporting Lisbon; Lierse v Bayer* Leverkusen. Dec 10: Sporting Lisbon v Lierse; Bayer Leverkusen v Monaco.

Feltham's arrival keeps Sutton flying

Non-League Football by Walter Gammie

SUTTON United would settle for carrying their blazing form of early autumn through a centenary season that culminates in a players' reunion on March 5, 1998 — a hundred years to the day that two clubs in the town united to form the present one.

Although a run of seven successive victories in September was halted by a 2-2 draw at Welling United in an FA Cup second qualifying round tie at Park View Road on Saturday, Sutton, of the Isthmian League, beat the Vauxhall Conference side 2-1 in the replay at Gander Green Lane on Tuesday night.

The introduction of Dominic Feltham as a second-half substitute turned the match Sutton's way after Welling, given the lead in the twelfth minute by Mark Cooper, were only denied further reward for their ascendancy by the acrobatics in goal of Les Cleevely.

Feltham laid on an equaliser for Jimmy Dack in the 79th minute and then scored the winner himself five minutes from time. Feltham's arrival helped to make up for the shackles imposed upon Joff Vansittart — 13 goals already this season — and Matt Hanlan.

Hanlan was brought back to Sutton by John Rains, who made nearly 700 appearances for the club in 13 seasons from 1974 to 1987 before taking over as manager at the start of last season. Hanlan's place in club lore is already enshrined: he scored the winner in the club's triumph over Coventry City in the FA Cup in 1989.

Whether Sutton will be able to maintain the impetus towards regaining their place in the Conference that they lost in 1991 will be sorely tried by the likes of Kingstonian and Dagenham and Redbridge.

Kingstonian underlined their strength by beating Dover Athletic, of the Conference, at the Crabble in the FA Cup on Saturday, taking advantage of the dismissal of the home side's goalkeeper, Ron Fearon, before rattling in four goals in a 4-0 victory.

Another 4-0 defeat followed for Dover when they went down at Woking in the Conference on Tuesday. This time they had Stuart Munday and Lee Palmer sent off against a Woking side who fielded Steve West, their record £35,000 signing from Enfield.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

An evening with Kevin Keegan

TIMES readers are invited to a *Times/Dillons* forum on Thursday October 16 in London with Kevin Keegan, the former manager of Newcastle United. Keegan, who was also an England international footballer, will be the star speaker on a panel which will include Oliver Holt, football correspondent of *The Times*. Among the topics for discussion are details of Keegan's sudden departure from Newcastle last season, his views on modern management, his return to football with Fulham and England's World Cup prospects.

The forum marks the publication of Keegan's *My Autobiography* (Little Brown £16.99) and will be held at Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London SW1 at 7.30pm. Admission price is £10 (concessions £7.50) and includes £2 off the price of the book. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to put questions to him.

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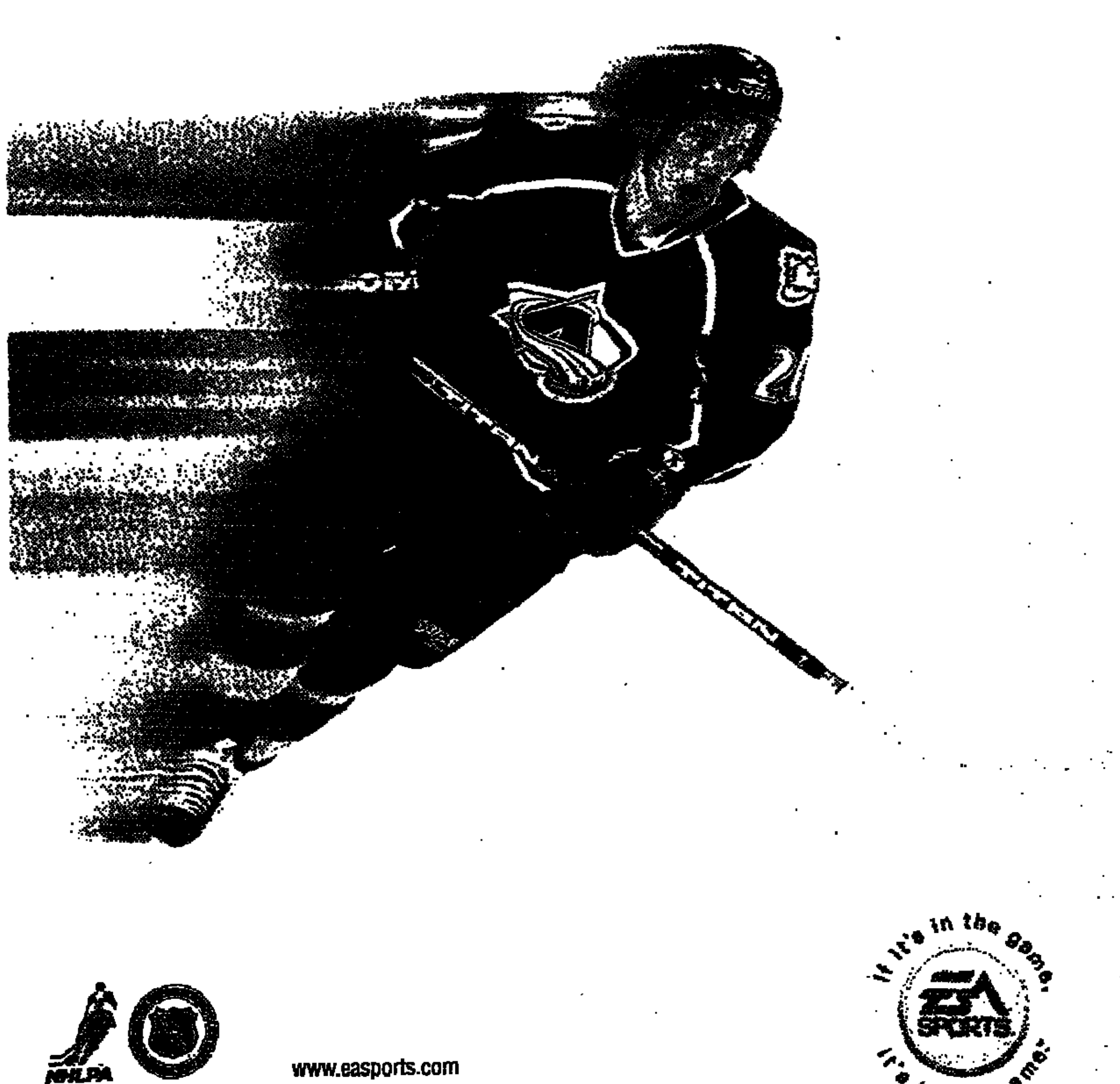

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Anxious Hunter keep Wigan in their sights

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE possibility that Hunter Mariners' match at Central Park tonight may be their last before the plug is pulled on their franchise after only one season ought to be enough of an incentive for the Australian team to beat Wigan and maintain their challenge in the world club championship through to the semi-finals.

With the rival Australian Super League (ASL) and Australian Rugby League (ARL) competitions seemingly set on a course towards reunion, there would appear to be no place for Hunter in a single competition. A number of their players could re-emerge next year at Paris, Glasgow, Edinburgh or Cardiff — in other words, whichever franchise the British Super League opts for in 1998.

Despite the gallows humour on the team visit to Central Park yesterday, the sense of having nothing to lose could easily wreck the best chance of a British team surviving the quarter-finals. "If we were playing Canberra or Brisbane, we'd be confident," Graham Murray, the Hunter coach, said. "If we spoil the party, so be it".

Hunter have had six weeks since the end of the season to ponder their fate. Idle hands have been busy, though, and whereas Wigan's match fitness might have held the key to the match tonight, the British side paid a heavy price in injuries to Gary Connolly, Tony Smith and Nigel Wright while retaining their Premiership title last Sunday.

Wright will have a late check on an arm injury, but in a reshuffled back line, Craig Murdock is at scrum half, Andy Johnson moves infield and the quietly impressive Daryl Cardiss onto the wing. As pleased as he was to see the back of Connolly and Smith, Murray rates Jason Robinson as the world's best player, with Andy Farrell not far behind.

Although Hunter failed to make the ASL play-offs, they defeated the top five teams and are unbeaten in six world championship matches. They have generally struggled away from home, which is set in the industrial centre of Newcastle, New South Wales, where they run a poor second in popularity to the Newcastle Knights, the winners of the ARL competition for the first time last Sunday.

Kris Radlinski has the task of policing Kevin Iro, the centre known as "The Beast", who, together with his brother, Tony, is revisiting Wigan for the first time since their marauding days there in the Eighties. "I'm not sure if the boys realise how special it's going to be," Tony said. "I'm just glad the team's going to be part of it, after all the rumours that we might not be here next year."

Breaking down Hunter's well-drilled defence will not be the only problem. Eric Hughes, the Wigan coach, said: "They're a top side, and if you say to a gang of blokes who've gelled together, that this might be their last game, they're going to move heaven and earth."

Hunter's future, as well as the release of Connolly and Robinson from their ARL contractual obligations in order to represent Great Britain in the three-match series against the ASL representative side in November, depends on swift progress towards unification in Australia.

Britain's chances of at least one side advancing to the semi-finals of a competition, the pool stages of which were disfigured by 52 Australasian wins to Europe's eight, hinge to an unhealthy degree on Wigan. Were it not for the fact that Auckland Warriors have beaten Bradford Bulls twice already, the last time by 64-14, the Super League champions might have made a more convincing case about being third time lucky today.

Robbie Paul was part of the New Zealand team that beat Australia for the first time in six years last week. Today, he is up against the bulk of the same side at scrum half for Bradford, who are right to fear Auckland's withering pace, but who need to show that, defensively, they can withstand the pressure.

The dubious privilege of trying to overturn Brisbane, the ASL champions, falls tomorrow to St Helens at ANZ Stadium, while Giles Thomas, 20, will cut his teeth at scrum half for London Broncos at home against Cronulla in the last quarter-final, on Sunday.

SIMON WILKINSON

Tony Iro renews acquaintance with Central Park

Langer, left, and Montgomerie assess the impact of the strong wind in the first round of the German Open yesterday

Bjorn hard put not to daydream

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN BERLIN

THOMAS BJORN'S eyes were sunken, even more sunken then they had been at Valderrama last Sunday when the full effect of Europe's victory in the Ryder Cup had not even begun to sink in. His cheeks, blown by a gusting, autumnal wind until they were as red as Kentish apples, helped to conceal what the eyes could not hide, that the Dane was absolutely exhausted. He looked as though he could sleep for a week.

"That was about as badly as I have struck the ball all year but I scored well, I got it round," Bjorn said in his excellent English after a 71, one under par, in the first round of the Linde German Masters at the Berliner Golf and Country Club here yesterday. "He shouldn't be here," Martin Gray, his caddie said. "He's shattered. Come to that, so am I."

One after another the Europe and United States team players, who had moved from Spain to this part of what was formerly East Germany, reeled off the wind-blown course. "It's a difficult day out there," Phil Mickelson said by way of explanation for a 73, one over par, the same total as Tom Lehman's.

Lee Westwood, 79, Ignacio Garrido, 76, Costantino Rocca, 75, and Darren Clarke, 73, were those who were over par. Per Ulrik Johansson had a 72 while Colin Montgomerie had a 71. The 69 by José Maria Olazábal left him one stroke behind the joint-leaders, David Howell, Martin Gates and, inevitably, Bernhard Langer. It is necessary to say inevitably about Langer because he usually does well in bad conditions, which others find so trying, and usually does well in the country of his birth. When the two conditions combine, when the weather is bad in Germany, then nothing, not even residual fatigue from an event as exciting as the Ryder Cup, can stop him playing well.

Bjorn went through the ritual celebrations at the hotel in San Roque on Sunday evening before flying back to London and then out to Germany for this event. And still he has not fully digested the magnitude of it, though he is clear how Europe were able to withstand a fierce American challenge in the singles to win by one stroke.

"We all connected so well," he said. "We supported one another. We knew we had to. We knew that was the only way we could beat the US. Everyone was there for each other.

"The experienced players in our team helped the young guys produce their best. They were there to give us a pat on the back when we needed it. They talked us down on the Saturday evening. In the team-room we were a bit high after doing everything so well. They told us we had to be 100 per cent the next day. They realised that just because we were leading 10½-5½ didn't mean we would beat the US. We had to be sure we were not asleep."

"We were getting to them [the US] mentally by the end," Bjorn continued. "We could see that. We thought that they thought they could not beat us around Valderrama. It was a good course for us because we knew it so much better than they did."

Bjorn's half-point in the singles, eked out after being four down after four holes to Justin Leonard, the Open champion, was a stirring comeback. "Seve [Ballesteros] told me it took the pressure off the others," Bjorn said. "I hit some fantastic shots. I birdied the 5th and the 9th and Justin made mistakes on the 8th and the 10th. It was a real head-on battle. Only two holes were halved all day. It was like being in the Second World War out there. I really proved I can cope with pressure."

TENNIS

Henman avenges defeat by Kucera

BY JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

TIM HENMAN took advantage yesterday of a lacklustre display from Karol Kucera to advance to the quarter-finals of the ATP Tour event in Basle, Switzerland. In dismissing his opponent 6-4, 6-1, the British No 2 was never required to rise above the ordinary.

Victory amounted to sweet revenge for Henman, who lost to Kucera, of Slovakia, in the semi-finals at Nottingham in June. Given the curious problems Kucera experienced with his service toss, a similar outcome here was most unlikely. Kucera, world ranked No 31, repeatedly abandoned his action in mid-swing, in the process undermining his confidence and so irritating Henman that the Briton had words with the umpire.

With Kucera looking anything but comfortable, it was predictable when, facing a break point at 4-4, the Slovakian double-faulted to concede the initiative. Henman claimed the opening set at the third attempt and promptly went from strength to strength.

A similar malaise afflicted Kucera at 1-1 in the second set. Three double faults were more than he could redeem and Henman's confidence swelled to such an extent that he broke his toiling opponent at every opportunity. Kucera was now a pale shadow of the man who beat Goran Ivanisevic in the opening round on Tuesday.

For all his opponent's problems, this was a stronger showing from Henman, who struggled to find his range when beating Marc Kevin Göllner on Tuesday. He improved as the match progressed, prompting his coach, David Felgate, to observe: "Tim started over-confidently against Göllner. Since then we have worked on getting more first serves in."

The prospect of further progress from Henman is enhanced by the tumbling of seeds in his half of the draw. He meets the unseeded Magnus Norman in the quarter-finals today. Norman yesterday ousted his fellow Swede and No 5 seed, Jonas Bjorkman, in straight sets.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: *First round, second leg:* Ararat Yerevan (Arm) 0 FC Copenhagen (Den) 2 (Copenhagen win 5-0 on agg); Primorje (Slovenia) 1 AIK Solna (Swe) 1 (Primorje win 2-1 on agg); Lokomotiv Moscow (Russ) 3 Belshyna Bobruisk Bela 0 (Lokomotiv Moscow win 5-1 on agg).

Wednesday's late results

COCA-COLA CUP: Second round, second leg: Coventry 3 Blackpool 1 (Coventry win 3-2 on agg); Derby 5 Southend 0 (Derby win 6-0 on agg); Everton 5 Scunthorpe 0 (Everton win 6-0 on agg); Millwall 1 Wimbledon 4 (Wimbledon win 9-2 on agg); Sheffield Wednesday 3 Grimsby 2 (Grimsby win 4-3 on agg).

THIRD-ROUND DRAW: Barnsley v Southampton; West Ham United v Aston Villa; Reading v Wolverhampton Wanderers; Oxford United v Tranmere Rovers; West Bromwich Albion v Liverpool; Middlesbrough v Sunderland; Ipswich Town v Manchester United; Grimsby Town v Leicester City; Bolton Wanderers v Wimbledon; Chelsea v Blackburn Rovers; Stoke City v Leeds United; Arsenal v Birmingham City; Newcastle United v Hull City; Tottenham Hotspur v Derby County; Coventry City v Everton; Walsall v Sheffield United.

☐ Ties to be played week commencing October 13.

UNIBOND LEAGUE CUP: First round: Bamber Bridge 2 Gretna 1; Bradford Park Avenue 1 Lincoln Utd 0; Whitby 6 Harrogate Town 1.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: First division: Molesey 0 Berkhamsted 1. Second division: Cheshunt 1 Barking 2.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Charlton Athletic 2 Crystal Palace 0; Ipswich Town 2 Oxford United 3; Portsmouth 0 Swindon Town 2; Watford 0 Arsenal 3; Wimbledon 0 Queens Park Rangers 3. Postponed: Luton Town v West Ham United.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Birmingham City 0 Leeds United 0; Preston North End 0 Aston Villa 0. First division: Oldham 6 Notts County 0; Port Vale 3 Leicester 2; Sunderland 3 Huddersfield 1. Second division: Barnsley 1 Bradford 1; Carlisle 0 Rochdale 0; Wrexham 3 Lincoln 0; York 2 Stockport 3. Third division: Chester 3 Chesterfield 1; Scarborough 1 Walsall 6; Wigan 1 Doncaster 4.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Endsleigh 1 Highworth 0.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Handrahan Timbers 0 Bolehill Swifts 1.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Felixstowe Port 2 Clacton 1.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Aerostructures 1 Cowes Sports 0.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Prescot Cables 1 Chadderton 1.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hallam 1 Maltby MW 2.

FA CUP: Second qualifying round replays: Bishop Auckland 2 Chorley 3; Farsley Celtic 1 Guiseley 4.

FA YOUTH CUP: First qualifying round replay: East Thurrock 2 Uxbridge 1. Second qualifying round: Bilston Tn 1 Kidderminster H 2; Hinckley 5 Gresley Rvrs 0; Great Wakering 2 Harlow Tn 2; Wembley 2 Hornchurch 2; Bedford Town 3 Romford 1; Hitchin 2 Chelmsford 4; Grays Athletic 1 Stevenage Borough 3; Fisher Athletic 2 Merstham 2; Maidenhead 1 Tooting and Mitcham 3.

WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Doncaster 3 Liverpool 1.

UNDER-16 INTERNATIONAL: Ireland 1 France 2 (at Frank Cooke Park).

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Tunisia 0 Australia 3 (in Tunis).

ARGENTINE LEAGUE: Racing Club 2 River Plate 3; Deportivo Espanol 1 Ferro Carril Oeste 1; Velez Sarsfield 0 Argentinos Juniors 1; Union 1 Gimnasia-Jujuy 1; Gimnasia-La Plata 2 Lanus 1; Gimnasia-Salta 0 Colon 2; Boca Juniors 2 Independiente 1; Platense 1 Estudiantes 0.

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Bahia 3 Goias 1; Santos 3 Uniao São Joao 1; Atletico PR 2 Portuguesa 0; Corinthians 2 Bragantino 0; Vasco da Gama 2 Palmeiras 1; Botafogo 1 Sport Recife 0; Criciuma 0 Internacional 1; Juventude 0 Flamengo 1; Vitoria 1 America RN 1; Gremio 0 Cruzeiro 0; Guarani 0 São Paulo 0.

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Play-offs: Atlanta 13 Houston 3 (Atlanta lead best-of-five series 2-0).

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Play-offs: Baltimore 9 Seattle 3 (Baltimore lead 1-0).

BASKETBALL

MEN'S EUROPEAN CUP: Group B: PAOK Salonika 72 Estudiantes Madrid 76. Group C: Ulkerspor (Tur) 67 Pau Orthez (Fr) 64. Group D: Bologna 70 AEK Athens 67.

CRICKET

Third one-day international match

Pakistan v India

LAHORE (Pakistan won toss): Pakistan beat India by nine wickets

INDIA

*S R Tendulkar c Inzamam b Aaqib	7
S C Ganguly c Hussain b Saqlain	26
R R Singh b Azhar	17
M Azharuddin c Moin b Azhar	8
V G Kambli c b Azhar	6
A D Jadeja c Inzamam b Waqar	76
†S S Karim b Hussain	20
R K Chauhan c Hussain b Waqar	32
A P Kuruvilla run out	6
N Kulkarni c sub b Aaqib	2
D Mohanty not out	0
Extras: (lb 5, nb 2, w 11)	16
Total (48.2 overs)	216

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-53, 3-56, 4-65, 5-77, 6-130, 7-206, 8-206, 9-215.

Bowling: Waqar Younis 8.2-0-33-2; Aaqib Javed 7-0-35-2; Azhar Mahmood 9-0-34-3; Saqlain Mushtaq 10-0-46-1; Shahid Afridi 5-0-26-0; Mohammad Hussain 10-0-37-1

PAKISTAN

Ijaz Ahmed not out	139
Shahid Afridi c Tendulkar b Kulkarni	47
Mohammed Wasim not out	27
Extras: (lb 2, w 4)	6
Total (1wkt, 26.2 overs)	219

*Saeed Anwar, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Hussain, †Moin Khan, Saqlain Mushtaq, Waqar Younis, Azhar Mahmood, Aqib Javed.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-80

BOWLING: Kuruvilla 6-1-42-0; Mohanty 3-0-39-0; Kulkarni 8-0-57-1; Chauhan 5-0-30-0; Ganguly 2.2-0-28-0; Singh 2-0-22-0

Pakistan win series 2-1.

Man of the match: Ijaz Ahmed

Umpires: Javed Akhtar and Nazir Junior

KARACHI: Tour match (second day of three): South Africans 305-7 declared and 152-5 (G Kirsten 61; P L Symcox 4-25); Pakistan Cricket Board XI 132.

GOLF

BERLIN: Linde German Masters: Leading first-round scores (GB and Ire unless stated): 68: D Howell, B Langer (Ger), M Gates. 69: G Orr, J M Olazábal (Sp). 70: A Binaghi (It), P Haugsrud (Nor). 71: J Spence, S Torrance, P Sjoland (Swe), T Bjorn (Den), C Montgomerie, A Coltart, P McGinley.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Pittsburgh 3 Los Angeles 3 (OT), Montreal 2 Ottawa 2 (OT); Philadelphia 3 Florida 1; Tampa Bay 4 Carolina 2; Washington 4 Toronto 1; Buffalo 3 St Louis 1; Detroit 3 Calgary 1; Colorado 2 Dallas 2 (OT); Phoenix 6 Chicago 2; Edmonton 5 San Jose 3.

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD *RACE: First leg (Southampton to Cape Town):* Leading positions (with distance to finish): 1, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 4,984.6miles; 2, Merit Cup (Monaco) 5,023.9; 3, EF Language (Swe) 5,035.3; 4, Chessie Racing (US) 5,097.3; 5, Silk Cut (GB) 5,129.9; 6, Toshiba (US) 5,234.6.

SNOOKER

MOTHERWELL: Regal Masters: First round: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt A Robidoux (Can) 5-1. Quarter-final: A McManus (Scot) bt P Ebdon (Eng) 6-3.

TENNIS

PALERMO: Men's tournament: First round: Second round: A Portas (Sp) bt F Messori (It) 6-1, 6-3.

BASLE: Men's tournament: First round: I Heuberger (Switz) bt M Rosset (Switz) 7-6, 7-5; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt A Boetsch (Fr) 6-2, 6-3; M Philippoussis (Aus) bt A Costa (Sp) 7-6, 6-3.

BEIJING: Men's tournament: First round: R Furlan (It) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 6-4, 6-2; M Tillstrom (Swe) bt Xia Jia Ping (China) 7-6, 6-4; K Carlsen (Den) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 6-4, 7-6. Second round: M Gustafsson (Swe) bt D Rikl (Cz) 6-2, 6-4; B Black (Zim) bt J Gimelstob (US) 3-6, 7-5, 6-4; K Carlsen (Den) bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 6-2, 6-0; T Johansson (Swe) bt L Paes (India) 7-5, 6-1; G Pozzi (It) bt G Stafford (SA) 6-3, 6-4; J Courier (US) bt M Ondruska (SA) 6-4, 6-3; J Kroslak (Slovakia) bt C Wilkinson (GB) 6-3, 6-7, 6-1; A O'Brien (US) bt Furlan 7-6, 6-4.

NOTTINGHAM: Satellite tournament (GB unless stated): Men: First round: J Fox bt A González (Sp) 6-3, 7-5. Second round: D Sapsford bt G Darlington 6-4, 6-1; N Wells bt M Hilton 6-3, 2-6, 6-2; M Zahirovic (Bosnia) bt M Lee 4-6, 6-4, 6-1; A Foster bt T Spinks 6-7, 6-3, 6-4; N Weal bt G Elseneer (Bel) 6-0, 6-4; A Popp (Ger) bt Fox 7-5, 7-6; A Parmar bt P Robinson 6-2, 6-2; L Milligan bt J Layne 6-4, 6-3. Women: Quarter-finals: K Kamer (Ger) bt L Latimer 6-1, 6-3; A Wainwright bt L Perkins 6-3, 6-4; T Musgrave (Aus) bt J Ward 6-3, 3-6, 7-6; N Egorova (Russ) bt B Loogen (Ger) 6-1, 6-1.

▸ REWARDING TIMES ◂

Win a prize that money cannot buy

Today *The Times*, courtesy of Ebel, offers you the chance to win golf tuition from Colin Montgomerie. He will give the lucky winner lessons at an exclusive golf clinic on Tuesday, October 7 at Wentworth, Surrey. As a bonus, the winner will then play a round of golf with Per Ulrik Johansson on Wentworth's East Course. We also have four runners-up prizes of two pairs of VIP tickets for the semi-final and two pairs for the final of the Toyota World Matchplay Championship at Wentworth on Saturday, October 11 and Sunday, Oct 12.

How to Enter Simply call our competition hotline with your answer to the following question: *Who is the current World Matchplay champion?* The lines close at midnight on Sunday, October 5, 1997. *Normal TNL rules apply.*

0891 300 363 calls cost 50p per minute +44 990 200 663 standard BT rates apply.

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THE TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In the last two Refreshers we have looked at some straightforward reasons for ducking the opening lead when playing in a suit contract. The next example is a little more difficult.

Dealer South **Game all**

North:
♠ 6 5
♥ 5
♦ K Q J 8 7 4
♣ J 9 5 3

West:
♠ K J 10 8
♥ J 10 6 4 3
♦ 10 9 6
♣ 10

East:
♠ 9 7 4 3
♥ K Q 9 8 2
♦ 2
♣ K Q 8

South:
♠ A Q 2
♥ A 7
♦ A 5 3
♣ A 7 6 4 2

S	W	N	E
1 C	Pass	1 D	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 D	Pass
3 NT	Pass	5 C	All Pass

Contract: Five Clubs by South. Lead: ten of clubs

Three No-Trumps is a laydown contract, but North was worried about his weak majors. Nevertheless he should just have raised Two No-Trumps to Three No-Trumps. Six Clubs is with the odds — all it needs is a 2-2 trump break or West holding Kxx or Qxx. But as always, when dummy comes down you should concentrate on making the contract you are in, rather than wasting energy on what might have been.

Clearly, if the spade finesse is right or if clubs break 2-2 there will be no problem but what if East has the KQ8 of trumps and West the king of spades? If you win the ace of clubs and start on diamonds East will probably ruff the second or third and play a spade. If you rise with the ace and cross to dummy with a heart ruff to play another diamond, he will ruff again and the defence will cash the king of spades.

The solution is to duck the ten of clubs. At first glance this looks a strange play but what can West do? If he has a trump to play, you can win and claim the rest of the tricks; suppose, instead he plays a heart. You win, cash the ace of clubs and start on your diamonds. East can ruff in and switch to a spade but you rise with the ace, and claim the remainder, discarding your losing spades on dummy's diamonds.

☐ *The Times Book of Bridge 1*, a compendium of some of Robert Sheehan's daily columns, is now available in all good bookshops or direct from the publisher, B. T. Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £6.99 (plus £1 postage and packing).

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PAPAUMU
a. A Hawaiian skirt
b. A shrub
c. A step-parent

SAILAB
a. Irrigation
b. A maritime laboratory
c. A windsurfer

PROPOSITA
a. Proposed measures
b. A female originator
c. Part of a syllogism

ROSHI
a. A hot alcoholic drink
b. A Buddhist leader
c. Roasted Indian bread

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

European junior

Leading scores in the recently-concluded European junior championship in Tallinn were as follows: Dimitri Tyomkin (Israel) 8½/11, Jonathan Rowson (Scotland) 8, Nikolia Belichev (Ukraine) and Hristos Banikas (Greece) 7½. Of the British representatives the most successful was Jonathan Rowson of Scotland who took the silver medal. England was represented by Harriet Hunt who took overall eighth place. Here is one of Rowson's victories.

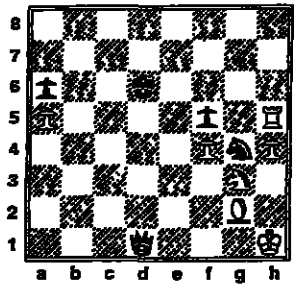
White: Andrey Belozerov
Black: Jonathan Rowson
Europe Junior, Tallinn, 1997

Dutch Defence

1	d4	c5
2	d5	f5
3	c4	Nf6
4	Nc3	g6
5	g3	d6
6	Nh3	Nbd7
7	Nf4	Ne5
8	Bg2	Bg7
9	0-0	0-0
10	b3	a6
11	a4	Qe8
12	a5	g5
13	Nd3	Nxd3
14	Qxd3	Qh5
15	f4	Bd7
16	Rb1	gxf4
17	gxf4	Kf7
18	b4	Rac8
19	bxc5	Rxc5
20	Rxb7	Rfc8
21	e3	Rxc4
22	Ne2	Qg6
23	Ba3	Rc2
24	Rc1	R8c3
25	Qxc2	Rxc2
26	Rxc2	Nxd5
27	Rxd7	Nxe3
28	Ng3	Nxc2
29	Bxd6	Ke6
30	Rxe7+	Kxd6
31	Rxg7	Qf6
32	h4	Ne3
33	Rxh7	Ng4
34	Rh5	Qd4+
35	Kh1	Qd1+

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Martell Trophy

The Martell Trophy, a knock-out competition for London clubs, which has already run for two seasons, has been won by the team from Simpson's-in-the-Strand, who defeated the Hurlingham B team in the final. Martell have now announced that they will not be sponsoring this event for a third season. However, the event will continue into 1998 under the umbrella of the Mind Sports Olympiad.

Times book

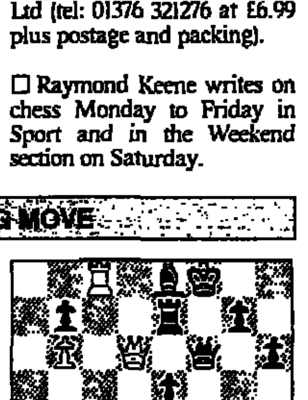
The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Prokopchuk — Sakalauskas, Poland 1997. Can you spot White's clever winning combination?



Solution on page 46

هكذا من الإصل

Julian Muscat tracks the greyhound chasing a treble chance

Some Picture in the frame for glory

PHOTOGRAPHS: STEVE NASH

Some Picture's dash towards the Triple Crown has rekindled interest in a sport seemingly on the wane

In the smoke-filled bowels of Britain's dilapidated greyhound stadiums, they will congregate in their thousands for a televised transmission. Those farther afield will trust to their radios. Even the Pope could not pack them in any tighter at Shelbourne Park, Dublin, tomorrow night, when Some Picture, hailed as the first million-pound greyhound, departs from trap five on a frantic dash towards history.

Having negotiated 15 eliminators and seven kilometres in sustaining the dream, just 480 metres now stand between Some Picture and the canine Triple Crown. The greyhound community has been expectant for months. Some have even draped it in the cloak of a religious cult. Never before has any dog bounded to victory in the Scottish, English and Irish Derbys. It is little wonder that Some Picture has been hailed as a messiah in an ailing sport.

Of course, tales of four-legged creatures in search of the holy grail have become commonplace. In horse racing, Silver Charm, having won the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes, came up inches short in the Belmont Stakes, the concluding leg of the North American Triple Crown. On the same day in June Entrepreneur, a 2,000 Guineas winner and a candidate for the British Triple Crown, was brutally exposed in the Derby at Epsom. Yet Some Picture's assault on the greyhound summit equates to the scaling of Everest's blackest face.

Consider, for instance, the dismissive riposte from William Hills when representatives of Imperial Tobacco, instigators of the £100,000 Triple Crown bonus, approached the bookmaking giant to "insure" their liability. Odds of 100-1, duly taken by Imperial Tobacco, implied that the concept was fantasy.

Consider, also, the fact that winning the English Derby often heralds a greyhound's immediate retirement. Pursuing the Irish equivalent has proved so elusive that to even attempt it was considered pure folly. Then there was the kennel sickness Some Picture contracted on his arrival in Ireland. The hosts winked knowingly, muttering openly about excuses being contrived in advance.

Yet the evidence was quickly before them: Some Picture progressed through the qualifiers, despite his physical frailty. Now, with a week's rest under his girth, he is reported to be fighting fit for the biggest night in 70 years of licensed greyhound racing.

Win or lose, experts maintain that Some Picture has already usurped the legends who surface regularly in pub quizzes. Names like Mick The Miller, who, in a White City stadium attracting football-sized crowds in the 1930s, carried off successive Derbys before fighting dogs on the track rendered his third victory null and void. Or Scurlogue Champ, who would tail himself off before summoning panther-like strides to snare his opponents. Or Ballyregan Bob, whose record winning sequence of 32, gained in the *Racing Post* World Challenge, was broadcast live on the BBC's *Nine O'Clock News* in 1986.

Lister with Some Picture, "he is just like a child"

All of this remains idle detail to Charlie Lister, who trains Some Picture in Nottingham. Lister is the antidote to decades of Ireland's self-declared superiority in handling greyhounds. Some still question his credentials, reluctant to accord him parity with their country's finest. Although Lister will not be drawn on the Anglo-Irish issue, the British *cogniscenti* insist that this quiet, intense individual can mix it with the best.

He will certainly have to tomorrow, when a capacity 7,500 crowd — the all-ticket event could have been sold many times over — will be baying for their own. However, Lister, 58, remains disconnected from the hype because his dogs are his children. In clipped, awkward sentences, he acknowledges the historical context, the £100,000 bonus, the powerful spotlight on the sport he adores — but only to highlight the plight of kennel hands: "The most underpaid people in any sport."

The words flow only when Lister, formerly a timber merchant, talks about Some Picture in the human terms of the layman. "This dog is so friendly and kind, it's unbelievable. He'll put his paw out for you and everything, always pleased to see you, and well behaved. Really, he is just like a child." This hardly squares with the layman's image of the greyhound, all wire-muzzled, teeth bared, growling, barking, occasionally snapping at opponents along the way.

The paradox applies equally to Some Picture's value. Greyhound racing is perceived as a seedy sport, so it is hard to believe that from the sandpits of Walthamstow and Wimbledon can rise animals worth seven-figure sums. Victory tomorrow would take Some Picture's earnings close to £250,000. Win or lose, it will be his last race before he embarks on stud duties that could earn his owner, Steve Spiteri, more than £100,000 a year.

The portents for that elusive Triple Crown are encouraging. Some Picture is free of the knocks invariably sustained in the gruelling qualifying rounds of the Irish Derby. "I don't normally get carried away but this whole thing is a bit special," Lister said. "I'll probably feel it most when I put him into his trap. Even if he wins, I'll be upset to see the last of him." The only person not sharing that sentiment will be the William Hills representative who laid those 100-1 odds. The look on *his* face would make some picture.

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Answers from page 45

PAPAUMU
(b) A small evergreen tree or shrub, *Griselinia littoralis*, belonging to the family Cornaceae, native to New Zealand, and distinguished by thick, ovate leaves with shiny upper surfaces. The Maori word. "Broadleaf, papauma (*Griselinia littoralis*) is a common hardwood tree throughout the mixed and beech forests."

SAILAB
(a) A method of cultivation used in the Indus basin in Pakistan and northern India in which the land is irrigated by flood-water from the rivers. From the Hindi and Punjabi for a flood or a torrent, the Persian *sail* flowing + *ab* water. "The total area in the Indus basin, along different rivers, cultivated annually after inundation or sailab, was about 2.17 million acres. This cultivation was referred to as sailab."

PROPOSITA
(b) A female *propositus*: an individual who was the first member of a family to come to the notice of a researcher, and through whom investigation of a pedigree began. From the feminine past participle of the Latin *propōnere* to put forward. "A study of 12 different blood group systems in the proposita and her parents failed to exclude paternity."

ROSHI
(b) The spiritual leader of a community of Zen Buddhist monks. Transliteration of the Japanese word. "She's sort of like an elderly Zen priest, an old roshi who after years of work and study has distilled a large burden of 'knowledge' into a single gem of wisdom which he renders in a single haiku."

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TELEVISION CHOICE

Eclair's funny side of life

Jenny Eclair Squats
Channel 5, 8.00pm

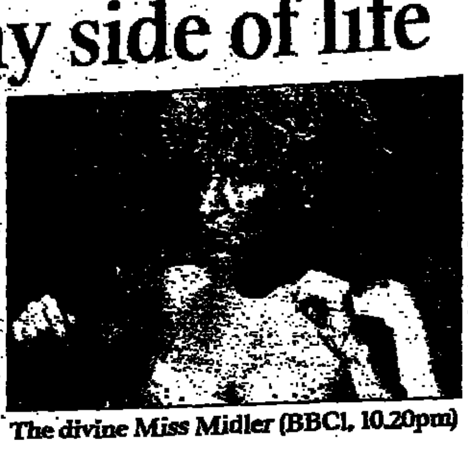
As this show, for reasons of topicality, is being recorded close to transmission no preview tapes were available. But the choice of host should give a good idea of what to expect. Jenny Eclair, winner of the Perrier Award at Edinburgh in 1995, is one of the least inhibited of the current breed of female comics and normally let loose on the viewing public only well after the watershed. Hence much of the interest will lie in seeing how far she has to tone down her material for family viewing. The guess is that she will not be tamed too much. The series promises guests, gossip and consumer tips and will be broadly inspired by the past week's news, hence the need to put it together at the last minute. The ingredients are less intriguing than the prospect of what Eclair will make of them.

Ground Force
BBC2, 8.30pm

The garden makeover series continues to be as much entertainment as instruction. With Alan Titchmarsh as anchor it could hardly be anything else. Perhaps the jokes do not flow quite as freely as in previous programmes but tonight's show, from a water mill in Sussex, rarely keeps a straight face for long. With the husband kept out of the way the challenge is to transform his garden in two days on a budget of £750. Gardening purists may object that the refurbishment is more about carpentry than horticulture, for the two main tasks are to build a wooden deck over the sluice and to construct a screen of willow to give privacy from the adjoining lane. But Titchmarsh manages to do a bit of planting, as well as giving us the benefit of his wisdom on matters from dealing with mole hills to choosing garden ornaments.

Dangerfield
BBC1, 9.30pm

Tony McHale is one of those seasoned television writers whose name on the credits is a guarantee of a well-worked script that juggles several plots at the same time and keeps then spinning until it is time to call a halt. His *Dangerfield* episode does not disappoint, encompassing a hostage-taking, a further instalment in the slow-burning romance of Dr Paul (Nigel Le Vaillant) and DS Helen (Nicola Cowper) and light relief from the voluble Angela (Marcia Warren), a receptionist from hell. The outcomes are mainly predictable for *Dangerfield*, despite its dark moments, is a comfortable show which does not set out to give the viewer nightmares. Sandra Maitland, who as Mandy Jordache of *Brookside* killed her husband and buried him under the patio, guests as a woman whose road crash sparks the main storyline.



The divine Miss Midler (BBC1, 10.20pm)

Parkinson: The Interviews
BBC1, 10.25pm

As star quality goes, Bette Midler may not match up to previous subjects of this series such as Bob Hope or Bing Crosby. But her 1979 confrontation with Michael Parkinson (interview is too tame a word) was a rousing affair and well worth recalling as an instance of an unruly guest upstaging an increasingly rattled host. It is to Parkinson's credit that he keeps his composure as well as he does. To a large extent, of course, Midler is playing up to the outrageous image she was carefully constructing as the world started taking notice of her. She appears in a dress cut so low that from some angles there seems almost no top to it and proceeds in her shrill and vulgar way to take over the show. Accusing Parky of wearing a wig is the least of it. In keeping with chat show tradition, plugs for her new (in 1979) album and film, *The Rose*, are not overlooked.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Lunchtime Concert
Radio 3, 1.00pm

This slot in the Radio 3 schedules was given more coherence in the recent programme shuffle, especially as there is now a Saturday concert as well as one each weekday for jaded office workers. Today, and for a further seven Fridays, the concert comes live from St George's Church on Brandon Hill in Bristol and each concert, titled *Double Take*, will feature a new approach to familiar work. Today the series begins with a concert by two pianists, David Nettle and Richard Markham. The classical works they are playing are by Brahms, Debussy and Ravel, but the concert also includes arrangements by Nettle and Markham of two numbers from *West Side Story*: *Tonight* and *America*.

Gerry's Bar
Radio 4, 9.45am

I realise there are a certain number of Radio 4 traditionalists who will keel over and froth at the mouth at the prospect of Gerry Anderson returning to the network: they thought that having booed *Anderson Country* off the air they had heard the last of the man. But at least this latest series of programmes is finite (there are four) and they only last 15 minutes. They also, as it happens, confirm that Anderson is an excellent broadcaster who was simply placed in the wrong context with *Anderson Country*. Now he is back, this time trying to discover why continental Europe has taken such a liking to Irish pubs given that, as Anderson says, the Irish aren't used to being liked, let alone being fashionable.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am *Mark Radcliffe* **9.00** *Simon Mayo* **12.00** *Jo Whiley*. Includes **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Pete Tong: Essential Selection **10.00** One in the Jungle on Tour. Live from Edinburgh's Manga Club **12.00** Radio 1 Rap Show **3.00am** Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Diane Louise Jordan **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Denis Quilley Shares the Best of Times **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night Robin Stapleton conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra from the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London **9.15** The Tailor of Panama. John le Carré reads part nine of his latest book **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** *The Arts Programme* **12.05am** Jon Briggs

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Sportstalk **8.30** Friday Sport. Includes Huddersfield Town v Nottingham Forest **10.00** Paper Talk **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night **5.00** Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am *Nick Abbot* **7.00am** *Russ and Jono's Breakfast* Experience **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** **(FM)** Robin Banks **(AM)** Nicky Horne **7.00** **(FM)** Paul Coyte **(AM)** Caimin Jones **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am *Bill Overton and Carol McGiffen* **9.00** *Scott Chisholm* **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00am** Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday **6.30** *Europe Today* **7.00** *News* **7.15** *The World Today* **7.30** Muslims in Britain **8.00** News **8.15** Off the Shelf: The Portrait of a Lady **8.30** Music Review **9.00** News; *News in German (648 only)* **9.10** Pause for Thought **9.15** Performance **9.30** John Peel **10.00** News **10.05** World Business Report **10.15** History Today **10.30** BBC English: Speaking of English **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Plants of Power **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Focus on *Faith* **1.00** *News; News in German (648 only)* **1.05** *World* Business Report **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Ends of the World **1.45** Sports Roundup **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack: Alternative **4.00** News **4.05** Football Extra **4.15** Paradox **4.30** Science in Action; News in German (648 only) **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Britain Today **6.00** News **6.15** The World Today **6.30** The Insider's Guide; News in German (648 only) **6.40** Spotlight **6.45** Sports Roundup **7.00** *Newsdesk* **7.30** *Focus on Faith* **8.00** *News* **8.01** Outlook **8.25** Pause for *Thought* **8.30** Multitrack: Alternative **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.05** World Business Report **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** People and Politics **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** The World Today **11.45** Sports Roundup **12.00** *News* **12.05am** *Outlook* **12.30** *Multitrack Alternative* **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** From the Weeklies **1.45** Britain Today **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Paradox **2.45** The Insider's Guide **2.55** Spotlight **3.00** Newsday **3.30** People and Politics **4.00** News **4.05** World Business Report **4.15** Sports Roundup **4.30** The World Today; Weekend (Europe only) **4.45** Off the Shelf

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann **9.00** Henry Kelly. Includes the Hall of Fame Hour **1.00pm** Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones **2.00** Concerto. Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 1 in F sharp minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Newsnight with John Brunning **7.30** Sonata. Schubert (Duo Sonata in A) **8.00** Evening Concert. Wagner (Eine Faust-Ouverture); Beethoven (Piano Concerto *No 1 in C); Gounod (Ballet Music from Faust); Schubert (Des* Wandern); Schubert (Symphony No 3 in D) **10.00** *Michael* Mappin. Includes Nocturne **2.00am** Concerto (r) **4.00** Sally Peterson

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Elgar (Severn Suite); Tchaikovsky (Serenade in C); Ravel (Valses Nobles et Sentimentales); Glazunov (*Violin Concerto in A minor*); *Schubert* (*Piano Sonata in F sharp minor*)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Grieg (Lyric Pieces); Mozart (Piano Trio in C)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Mark Rowlinson. Includes Vaughan Williams (O Clap Your Hands); Dvořák (The Wood Dove); Rachmaninov (Vocalise); Handel (Coronation Anthem No 4: My Heart is *Inditing*); Nielsen (*Chaconne*); *Barber* (Agnus Dei, Adagio); Kodaly (Suite Hary Janos)
12.00 Composers of the Week: Schoenberg, Berg and Webern (Sounding the Century)
1.00pm News; Lunchtime Concert. See Choice
2.00 The BBC Archive. Donald Macleod introduces some *memorable* performances. Includes interviews with Eleanor Warren and Sir Nikolaus *Pevsner. Haydn (String Quartet in E flat)*; Bach (Solo Cello Suite No 5 in C minor); Mendelssohn (Songs Without Words); Satie (Three Melodies *1916; Je te Veux*)
4.00 Music Restored. A concert given last July in the Holy Trinity Church, Micklegate, York. Barbara Schlick, soprano, *Peter Seymour*, fortepiano. Mozart (Sei du Mein Trost; Sehnsucht Nach dem Frühling); Reichardt (Rhapsodie; Erwin und Elmire; Neue Liebe, Neues Leben; Ganymed); Zelter (Kennst du das Land; Erster Verlust; Rastlose Liebe; *Wand'rers Nachtlied*); *Weber (Ich denke* dein; Das Mädchen an das) Erste (Schneeglöckchen; Die gefangenen Sänger; Die freien Sänger) (r)
4.45 Music Machine, with Verity Sharp
5.00 **In Tune.** *Sean Rafferty is joined by Claire Tomalin*, whose biography of Jane Austen is published this week
7.30 **Performance on 3: Rameau's Platée.** Live from the Barbican Theatre, London, the Royal Opera's new production of *Rameau's comedy*, directed by Mark Morris. Starring the French tenor Jean-Paul Fouchecourt in the title role *and* Diana Montague, *and Francois Le Roux as Juno and Jupiter. With* Nicole Tibbels, soprano, Susan Gritton, soprano, Mark Padmore, tenor; Royal Opera Chorus, Orchestra of the *Royal Opera House under* Nicholas McGegan. Prologue: Act 1 **8.50** Postscript. Philip Hensher, author of *Kitchen Venom*, introduces and reads from his next novel, *Slow Thunder* **9.10** Platée, Acts 2 and 3
10.30 Hear and Now. Andrew Sparling introduces Gemini. Includes Carter (Canon for Four, Homage to William; Canon for Three, In memoriam Igor *Stravinsky; Scrivo in vento)*; *Michael Zev Gordon* (Gravity and Grace I); Carter (Gra; Con Leggerezza Pensosa, Homage to Calvino; Riconoscenza per *Goffredo* Petrassi); Penderecki (Clarinet Quartet); Carter (Esprit Rude; Esprit Doux; Bariolage; Enchanted Preludes)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Pizzetti (r)
1.00am Songs from Saturn. Jez Nelson tells the story of *Sun Ra, the jazz band leader (r)*
1.30 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00am News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.45** *The Compleat Angler.* Richard Johnson reads from Izaak Walton's book of fishing lore. Abridged by Tony Ramsey (2/2) **8.58** Weather
9.00 News; Desert Island Discs: Peter O'Sullevan (r)
9.45 Gerry's Bar. See Choice (1/4)
***10.00* (FM) News; Old Stubborn Guts.** The American writer and broadcaster Studs Terkel unlocks his personal archives (2/5)
10.00 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 ***Woman's Hour,*** *with Sheila McClennon*
11.30 The Natural History Programme. Presented by Joanna Pinnock
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures. A *celebration of kitchen gardens (r) **12.55** Weather*
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke at the Labour Party conference and James Cox in London
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Classic Serial: Lorna Doone. The final part of R.D. Blackmore's *romantic novel*, adapted by Barry Letts (r)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. *Tim Marlow* reports from the opening night of a new production of Britten's opera *The Turn of the Screw*
4.45 Short Story: My Father, by Damon Runyon. Read by Kerry Shale (r)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** *Weather*
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Going Places, with David Stafford. Includes the actress Janet Brown visiting Rye in East Sussex
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week. Presented by Chris Serle
8.05 Any Questions? *Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a* topical discussion in Portsmouth with panelists including Hilary Wainwright and Emma Nicholson
8.50 Judging the Judges. Professor Simon Lee examines the role of the senior judiciary. Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, talks about how expected constitutional change will affect the judges' role. (1/3)
9.15 Letter from America, *by Alistair Cooke*
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: Shadowlands — Truth and Fiction. Humphrey Carpenter investigates the truth behind William Nicholson's play (r)
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: *Loitering with Intent (10/10)*
11.00 Week Ending. A new series of the satirical news show with Jon Glover, Sally Grace, Dave Lamb and Sarah Parkinson
11.25 Fourth Column. The first of a new series of the *programme that takes a sideways look at the* week's events
11.45 Beyond the Millennium. Sheena McDonald talks to the futurologist Ian Pearson who predicts a world in which robots are commonplace and the *Internet is still with us (4/5)*
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Light in August, by William Faulkner (10/12)
12.48 (LW) Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.

Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الأصل

High drama and low humour poorly mixed

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

Sometimes television springs the most unexpected surprise. I mean, given the choice between the wonderful Warren Clarke in a new BBC drama or an ITV thriller in which Leslie Grantham plays a Norfolk policeman whose body has been occupied by aliens, it should be no contest. Clarke every time, right? Not at the moment it isn't.

I cannot stand **The Locksmith** (BBC1), which for those already confused is the one in which Clarke wears a pained expression throughout. This might express regret that his body has not been taken over by aliens (which at least would give him an excuse) or simply a profound wish that he had read the script more carefully — we are not told.

For the second week running, as the action lurched unhappily from high emotion to humour marooned somewhere between slapstick and schoolboy, I got the feeling that the filming of each scene must have been marked by the director turning and asking anxiously: "Does this work?" "Sort of," somebody else would mumble, too frightened or too unimportant to be able to scream "No."

As a result we move uncomfortably from Clarke emoting his socks off in scenes with his former wife (Sheila Kelley), whose severe head injury means she has forgotten that she hates him, to comic nonsense involving wigs, bare bottoms and bad backs. This is unfair not just on us but also on Clarke. For Clarke was not designed for emoting. Ask those famously craggy features to crumple and they will . . . but you had better have a very good reason. In *The Locksmith*, those reasons have been tossed away in the ill-judged pursuit of "laffs" and "lager".

Which bring us to Barry, the pivotal *Minder*-esque character who might have brought the comedy and tragedy together. The fact that he doesn't is nothing to do with Chris Gascoyne's performance, but everything to do with Stephen Bill's writing. In creating Barry, Bill has created television's first really charmless git, the sort of oaf who picks out *Always Look on the Bright Side* while an elderly widow mourns her beloved Highland terrier, which has just been found in all-too-convincing bits. On paper, you can still just about see that this could theoretically have been funny. But on screen, with Jean Heywood acting serious distress, it wasn't. "Does this work?" I heard a timid voice ask. No.

By distinct contrast, **The Uninvited** (ITV) shouldn't work at all — and yet it does. It is breathtakingly unoriginal, owing a considerable debt to *Dr Who, The Invasion of the Bodysnatchers* and just about everything ever written by Brian Clemens and breathtakingly silly. It centres on the villagers of Sweethope, all of whom miraculously survived the huge explosion that toppled their East Coast village into the sea, and all of whom have gone on to be terrifically successful. The question is — as always — are these people really everything that they appear to be?

Well, it didn't need Leslie Grantham's eyes to turn white to tell us the answer to that one. *The Uninvited* knows it's hokum, but it's honest hokum, played straight but quietly acknowledging that it is taking us down a familiar path. Last week, as our hero raced through the East Anglian countryside in his sports car, the camera lingered on a junk-shop mannequin. Whether the head turned, as you half expected, or not, as was actually the case, didn't matter. The dues had been paid.

Dues that last night allowed Leslie Grantham, playing a Norfolk policeman whose brush with aliens has miraculously left him with a London accent, to ask: "Tell me what I should be afraid of?" and for Steve, our photographer hero (a commendably straight-faced Douglas Hodge) to answer: "The truth." Well, it must be out there somewhere, I suppose. Why not Norfolk?

Last night the plot moved on to break far from new ground by involving a sinister corporation manufacturing even more sinister computer software. Its smiling employees ("welcome to the future, friend") wear different coloured uniforms and are ordered about by Tannoy. Don't know about you, but it reminded me of *Teletubbies*.

Among the cast, Lia Williams, playing librarian and potential love interest, probably takes top honours, although as everyone else is playing either aliens or journalists (much of a muchness in performance terms) this is perhaps not the accolade it might have been. At least the arrival of Jean Anderson, having fun playing the alien who had the bad luck to take over a human being suffering from Alzheimer's, gave her competition. "We are two, not one," she croaked, shortly before her eyes went white, too. At the end of episode two nearly everyone had been dead at least once, which if I've got the plot right means they'll all be back in time for episode three. Can't wait.

Finally, **Lonely Planet** (Channel 4) returned and once again reminded us that the best reason for not travelling to far-flung foreign parts is to avoid a chance encounter with Ian Wright. *Fast Show*-lampooning has changed him not one jo'. Glottal-stops primed, baseball cap on back to front — off we went again, although what Ethiopia had done to deserve him I wasn't sure. Wasn't poverty, famine and war enough?

Wright remains supremely jarring company ("check this out — yee haw") but fair do's: he did manage to make the country look like somewhere the more intrepid among us might like to visit. It was, he concluded, "a right mind-blower". Nevertheless, I think I'll stick with Cornwall for now.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (25311)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (82001951)
9.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (3186135)
9.30 Style Challenge (8370965)
9.55 Kilroy (T) (7778992)
10.35 Change That In Cambridge (8618932)
11.00 News (T) Regional News and weather (7007628)
11.05 Labour Party Conference '97 The day's proceedings in Brighton (33184883)
1.00pm News (T) and weather (15086)
1.30 Regional News (73977203)
1.40 The Weather Show (32183406)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (71693715)
2.10 Quincy The coroner's abilities are called into question when he testifies against a mobster accused of inducing a fatal heart attack (r) (8615661)
3.00 Through the Keyhole (5241)
3.30 Playdays (8339241) **3.50** Dear Mr Barker (8319203) **4.05** The All New Popeye Show (1216999) **4.15** Casper (6571932) **4.35** Record Breakers (T)(8141406) **5.00** Newsround (T) (2415845) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (9814970)
5.35 Neighbours(r) (T) (822425)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) and weather (64)
6.30 Regional News (16)
7.00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson The team take a close look at tour operators, antique dealers and hire car companies (T) (7222)
7.30 Top of the Pops Exclusives, new videos and live performances, plus a rundown of the Top 40 (T) (28)
8.00 Vets in Practice Joe faces a dilemma over whether to treat a dog's ear problem, even though its owner cannot afford treatment. On the personal front, Joe's love life takes a nosedive and Hannah is vexed by niggling doubts (T) (6970)
8.30 Children's Hospital A four-year-old with diseased ovaries undergoes an operation which will cure her but leave her infertile. Elsewhere, a youngster receives speech therapy (T) (2777)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (T) and weather (4357)
9.30 Dangerfield: House Calls A woman is left shaken following a careless mistake at the wheel, but doesn't realise the seriousness of the situation (T) (704715)
10.20 The Nation's Favourite Love Poem Viviana Durante reads *Love Sonnet 44*, by Pablo Neruda (966680)
10.25 Parkinson: The Interviews Larger-than-life star of stage and screen Bette Midler in a vintage interview (T) (486067)
11.05 For the Boys (1991) Bette Midler and James Caan star as wartime entertainers boosting the morale of US troops overseas. Directed by Mark Rydell (T) (93523048)
1.20am A Town Called Hell (1971) starring Robert Shaw, Telly Savalas and Martin Landau. Based on fact, Mexican revolutionaries hunt down a priest who is worshipped by the local people. Directed by Robert Parrish (697636)
2.55 Weather (3091471)

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BBC2

6.00am OU: Social Problems and Social Welfare Course Review (2218609) **6.25** Survival Strategies (2297116) **6.50** Bulls, Bears and China Shops (9593628)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T) (2809558)
7.30 Smurfs' Adventures (r) (4601715) **7.55** Smart (T) (8826244) **8.20** William's Wish Wellingtons (r) (8513135) **8.25** Wishing (r) (9532114) **8.35** Teletubbies (r) (9923135) **9.00** Cartoon (3813390) **9.10** Music Makers (7471680) **9.30** Watch (8931425) **9.45** Come Outside (8929680) **10.00** Teletubbies (67951) **10.30** Look and Read (7833864) **10.50** The Art (7853628) **11.10** Landmarks (5618628) **11.30** English File (3864) **12.00** Scene (46883)
12.30pm Working Lunch (73425) **1.00** The Little Polar Bear (r) (55311390) **1.05** Pingu (r) (55310661) **1.10** The Countryside Hour: Dorset and Wiltshire (7949203)
2.10 Wildlife on Two Bee-eaters in Kenya (r) (T) (36116203) **2.40** News and weather (T) (3033390)
2.45 Match of the Seventies (r) (T) (8208048) **3.25** News (T) (4222798) **3.30** Real Rooms (r) (5543131) **3.55** Consuming Passions: broccoli with a taste of the Orient (r) (9890898) **4.00** Ready, Steady Cook (57) **4.30** Going, Going, Gone (8140777) **4.55** Esther: single-sex schools (8069406) **5.30** Today's the Day (93)
6.00 Star Trek (r) (T) (658574)
6.50 The O Zone Robbie Williams performs his new single and Paul Weller on his new video (427715)
7.00 The Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race After two weeks at sea the fleet begins to split (5864)
7.30 Top Gear Motorsport Rallycross Superprix; Eurocar action at Castle Combe; and Formula Ford in review (70)
8.00 The Big Catch The Scottish giant skate, nicknamed "the barn doors" (T) (4512)
8.30 Ground Force Alan Titchmarsh and his team of experts set about revamping a Sussex watermill garden (T) (5749)
9.00 Red Dwarf Lister meets old flame Kristine Kochanski (r) (T) (2999)

Reeves and Mortimer (9.30pm)

9.30 Shooting Stars Among those joining Reeves and Mortimer in the fun and games tonight are East 17 and Rolf Harris (T) (53661)
10.00 Jenny Eclair's Pick'n'Mix (T) (47512) **10.25** Video Nation Shorts (963593) **10.30** Newsnight (160777) **11.15** VR 5 (T) (145628)
12.00 Patlabor (1989) Animated cops and robbers fantasy. Directed by Mamoru Oshii (275742)
1.40am Quantum Leap Sam and Alia leap into a women's prison (r) (T) (1422810) **2.25** Weather (8074346)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (4331154)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (3182319)
9.55 Regional News (9288654)
10.00 The Time, the Place (61777)
10.30 This Morning (T) (77957661)
12.20pm Regional News (8479661)
12.30 News (T) and weather (5821512)
12.55 WALES: Grass Roots (r) (T) (5806203)
12.55 Dogs with Dunbar (5806203) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (76266390) **1.50** Murder, She Wrote (r) (9318864) **2.50** The Pulse (T) (9659970) **2.50** Garden Calendar (T) (9659970)
3.20 News (T) (4210951)
3.25 Regional News (4219222)
3.30 Jays' World (8333883) **3.40** Titch (9826154) **3.50** Oscar and Friends (9822338) **4.00** Roger and the Rottentrolls (T) (8718203) **4.15** Hurricanes (T) (6580680) **4.40** Fun House (T) (7642852)
5.10 A Country Practice (3205883)
5.40 News (T) and weather (576113)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (849628)
6.25 HTV Weather (725609)
6.30 HTV News (T) (12)
7.00 Emmerdale Kim's new business partner has a proposition for Kathy (T) (2390)
7.30 Coronation Street Maureen makes a momentous decision (T) (96)
8.00 The Bill: Free to Speak Will Slater seduce Keane when he takes her out for a romantic dinner? (8338)
8.30 Strange But True? More true-life stories of the supernatural, including Britain's No 1 UFO hot spot and the sinister beast stalking the Durham dales (T) (7845)

Val McLane, Perdita Weeks star (9pm)

9.00 Catherine Cookson's The Rag Nymph First of a three-part drama about a young girl adopted by a rag lady after her mother commits suicide (T) (6067)
10.00 News (T) and weather (41338)
10.30 Regional News (568425)
10.40-12.40 WALES: The Freshman (1990) with Marlon Brando, Matthew Broderick and Bruno Kirby. A naive college student lands what he thinks is a job of a lifetime, but he soon realises that he is, in fact working for an ageing Mafia don. Directed by Andrew Bergman (78676116)
10.40 Late and Live With guest Stuart Higgins, editor of *The Sun* (5638661)
12.10am Campus Cops (4664520)
12.40 The Paul Ross Show (3609891)
2.10 King of the Wind (1989) with Richard Harris, Jenny Agutter and Nigel Hawthrone. The story of an 18th-century thoroughbred Arabian stallion. Directed by Peter Duffell (389926)
3.55 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (37437181) **4.25** Cool Vibes (97846029) **4.35** Coach (r) (56465723) **5.00** Coronation Street (91988) **5.30** News

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (5806203)
2.50-3.20 Surprise Chefs (9659970)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (3205883)
6.25 Central News (824319)
6.55-7.00 Debtbusters: Lifeline (798357)
10.40 Central Weekend Live (5638661)
2.10am The LADS (1768839)
2.40 Cool Vibes (9396810)
2.50 Box Office America (5598568)
3.20 Baywatch (8599549)
4.10 Central Jobfinder '97 (6506907)
5.20 Asian Eye (7353278)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (8479661)
12.55 Home and Away (5806203)
1.25 Spill the Beans (46994715)
1.55 Westcountry Update (71675319)
2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (8629864)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (3205883)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (78970)
10.30 Westcountry News (559777)
10.45 Film: Blow Out (1981). A thriller starring John Travolta, directed by Brian De Palma (78981777)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (5806203)
1.50 Serve You Right (71676048)
2.20-3.20 Highway to Heaven (7373628)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (3205883)
6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (78970)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (559777)
10.45 Chiller (923357)
11.45 Wiseguy (851777)
5.00am Freescreen (91988)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (8498796)
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (5806203)
1.50 A Splash of Colour (71676048)
2.20-3.20 Highway to Heaven (7373628)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (3205883)
6.23 Anglia Weather (726338)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (107425)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (967319)
10.30 Anglia News Extra (50086)
11.00 Film: Blood from the Mummy's Tomb (641883)

S4C

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (38339) **9.00 Ysgolion** (590796) **11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier** (8932) **12.00 Sesame Street** (31951) **12.30pm Ricki Lake** (68593) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (32741116) **1.15 Slot Syniadau Sali** (32779999) **1.30 The Adventures of Tintin** (71681970) **1.55 Racing from Newmarket** (71385116) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (25) **4.30 Out of Africa** (39) **5.00 5 Pump** (4757593) **5.15 Mynd Drot Drot** (2410390) **5.30 Countdown** (61) **6.00 Newyddion** (272932) **6.10 Heno** (672154) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (953715) **7.25 Y Sioe Gelf** (202864) **8.00 Yma Mae 'Nghan** (9680) **8.30 Newyddion** (8715) **9.00 Ffrwyth Llafur** (111864) **9.45 Pond Life** (488067) **10.00 Brookside** (469390) **10.35 Friends** (950131) **11.05 Jo Brand: Like It or Lump It** (922609) **11.35 King of the Hill** (988425) **12.05am TFI Friday** (2740487) **1.05 Film: Project A, Part II** (765100) **3.05 Robin** (18241636) **3.10 Film: Blackmail** (4055510)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (93951) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (38339)
9.00 Schools: Off Limits (3170574) **9.25** Schools at Work (3990067) **9.30** Eureka! (T) (8926593) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (T) (6498970) **10.02** Lost Animals (3711406) **10.10** TVM (T) (2796241) **10.25** Caraldean (2791796) **10.40** Top (7842512) **11.00** Robert Burns (T) (6672999) **11.15** Stage One (T) (6655222)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier Salad of eggs florentine; roast duckling and Peking pancakes; chocolate almond layer cake (T) (8932)
12.00 Sesame Street (31951) **12.30pm** Ablaze in Provence (r) (T) (8493951) **1.25** A Child's Grief (r) (T) (46992357)
1.55 Racing from Newmarket The **2.05**, **2.35**, **3.05** and **3.40** races (71385116)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (25) **4.30** Countdown (T) (8135845) **4.55** Ricki Lake (T) (8054574) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (61)
6.00 TFI Friday The guests include Uri Geller (76512)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (326883)
7.55 Music of the Millennium Gary Barlow's choice (637425)
8.00 Garden Party Tom Barber and the team are joined by the actress Thelma Barlow for a visit to Arley Hall in Cheshire (T) (9680)
8.30 Brookside Jimmy has difficulty with country life. Will Lisa agree to help Max and Susannh become parents? (T) (8715)

Sherilyn Fenn guests (9.00pm)

9.00 Friends Chandler dates a woman with a handicap. Phoebe objects to her song *Smelly Cat* being used in an advertisement. Sherilyn Fenn makes a guest appearance (T) (727574)
9.35 Cybill Cybill goes out on a date with a man who claims to have always been a fan of hers (T) (166785)
10.00 Frasier Frasier and Niles invite dates on a romantic weekend vacation (T) (32680)
10.30 Jo Brand: Like It or Lump It Stand up and sketches (T) (449796)
11.05 King of the Hill (T) (922609)
11.35 TFI Friday (r) (593241)
12.35am Project A, Part II (1987) A kung fu romp in turn-of-the-century Hong Kong, directed by and starring Jackie Chan (428907)
2.35 Robin Adult animation (3071617)
2.40 Blackmail (1929, *b/w*) Anny Ondra and Donald Calthrop star in a thriller about a young woman who is blackmailed after stabbing a man in self defence. Alfred Hitchcock's first talkie (T) (3527617)
4.10 The Ticket A funny modern nightmare (2069181)
4.45 Takeover TV Public-access television (r) (51839)
5.15 Fluke (r) (41452)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt decoder** will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02** and **7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (2256319)
7.30 Milkshake (7279116) **7.35** USA High (r) (7869898) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (8650715)
8.30 WideWorld How Rome became part of Napoleon's European Empire (3/12) (8659086)
9.00 Espresso (5822067)
10.00 Exclusive (r) (6561390)
10.30 Treasure Islands: Island of the Bears The brown bears of Alaska's coastal region (r) (T) (8639222)
11.00 Leeza (9410785) **11.50** Double Espresso (44554338) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (8620574) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (4215195) **1.00** 5 News (99420999) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (1670951) **2.00** 5's Company (4964357)
3.30 True Confections (1991) with Leslie Hope, Jill Riley and Kyle McCulloch. Set in 1950s Winnipeg, the story of three Jewish friends being constantly nagged by their families to find a husband. Directed by Gail Singer (3097116)
5.20 5's Company (55243425) **5.30** Whittle (T) (8633338) **6.00** 100 Per Cent (8623951) **6.30** Family Affairs (T) (8614203) **7.00** Name That Tune (6471593)
7.30 Exclusive Featuring a profile of Fabba an Abba tribute band (8643715)

Jenny Eclair (8.00pm)

8.00 Jenny Eclair Squats A new comedy series starring the first woman to win the Perrier Award (1/10) (6480241)
8.30 5 News (T) (6476048)
9.00 The Fatal Image (1990) with Michelle Lee and Justine Bateman. A holiday in Paris for a mother and daughter turns into a struggle for survival. Directed by Thomas Wright (69580796)
10.50 La Femme Nikita Nikita gets close to a money-launderer (2743835)
11.45 Live Nude Girls (1995) with Dana Delany and Kim Cattrall. A hen-party goes haywire when friends begin to reminisce. Directed by Julianna Lavin (4680086)
1.35am The Norseman (1978) starring Lee Majors and Cornel Wilde. A Viking prince searches for his missing father. Directed by Charles B Pierce (1927365)
3.10 Spare the Rod (1961) Max Bygraves as an idealistic teacher at a tough school. Directed by Leslie Norman (1991100)
4.45 Burke's Law (2627704)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (5707704)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see Vision, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (581319) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (70512) **10.00** Another World (39880) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (26116) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (19244) **1.00pm** Geraldo (18512) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (15512) **3.00** Jenny Jones (18048) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (20883) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (4777) **6.00** Real TV (7357) **6.30** Married... with Children (8609) **7.00** The Simpsons (5406) **7.30** M*A*S*H (7593) **8.00** Highlander (40135) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (60999) **10.00** Extra Time (87154) **10.30** Stand and Deliver (63574) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (47609) **12.00** Late Show (35346) **1.00am** Long Play (1752617)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Buddy System (1984) (31488) **8.00 Heart Like a Wheel** (1983) (48224) **10.00 The Long Summer of George Adams** (1982) (56445116) **11.40 Problem Child III** (1995) (1407067) **1.10pm The Buddy System** (1984) (72519425) **3.00 Options** (1989) (39425) **5.00 The Care and Handling of Roses** (1996) (92086) **7.00 Problem Child III** (1995) (38583) **9.00 Sabrina** (1995) (38390) **11.00 The Movie Show** (178290) **11.40 Sexual Outlaws** (1995) (505406) **1.20am Funny Bones** (1995) (47409548) **3.30 Only When I Laugh** (1981) (552033)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.30am The Tall T (1957) (8220338) **7.50 Morning Glory** (1933) (7535113) **9.05 Alone in the Woods** (1995) (36251406) **10.40 Who Done It?** (1942) (9759338) **12.00 One Cooks, the Other Doesn't** (1983) (27357) **2.00pm The Day They Gave Babies Away** (1957) (45880) **4.00 Black Feather** (1995) (7721) **6.00 Alone in the Woods** (1995) (65203) **8.00 Muriel's Wedding** (1994) (37681) **10.00 Casino** (1995) (27560425) **12.55am The Prophecy** (1994) (697636) **2.45 Dangerous Indiscretion** (1994) (387723) **4.20 Little Orbit the Astrodog** (1974) (298810)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Foxes of Harrow (1947) (4907970) **6.00 Jaws II** (1978) (1988593) **8.00 She's Having a Baby** (1988) (1990338) **10.00 Kung Fu: The Movie** (1986) (8204845) **11.35 Cherry 2000** (1987) (8347048) **1.15am The Sicilian Clan** (1969) (4184549) **3.15 Rowing with the Wind** (1987) (4713839) **4.45 Close**

TNT

8.00pm WCW Nitro (73006777) **9.00 The Roaring Twenties** (1939) (73009864) **11.00 Shaft** (1971) (84463154) **1.00am Eye of the Devil** (1967) (84358278) **3.00 The Roaring Twenties** (1939) (43038433)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (76135) **7.30** Wrestling (11864) **8.30** Sports Centre (89135) **9.00** Super League: Auckland v Bradford — Live (46406) **11.00** Racing News (51777) **11.30** Futbol Mundial (52406) **12.00** Aerobics (83851) **12.30pm** Inside the PGA Tour (27883) **1.00** Golf: German Masters — Live (382947) **4.00** Full Throttle (8864) **4.30** Rugby Club (81154) **6.00** Sports Centre (24654) **7.00** Super League: Wigan v Hunter Mariners — Live (729406) **10.00** Sports Centre (94970) **11.00** Hold the Back Page (85883) **12.00** Sports Centre (99568) **1.00am** Rugby League (60548) **3.00** Wrestling (46297) **5.00** Hold the Back Page

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (2907715) **7.30** Sports Centre (2986222) **8.00** Racing (9269406) **8.30** Tight Lines (9766851) **9.30** Rugby Club (5110970) **11.00** Formula Three (2995970) **12.00** Powerboating (8262593) **12.30pm** Football League Review (2427351) **1.00** Rugby Club (4286715) **2.30** Full Throttle (7772883) **3.00** Trans World Sport (2299609) **4.00** Formula Three (2278116) **5.00** Full Throttle (5637929) **5.30** High 5 (7783889) **6.00** Inside the Senior PGA Tour (7773512) **6.30** Powerboating (7784864) **7.00** Huddersfield Town v Nottingham Forest — Live (6490280) **10.00** Golf: Buick Challenge (2261680) **12.00** Golf: German Masters (6311839) **1.30am** High 5 (6798279) **2.00** Sports Centre (9189723) **3.00** Buick Challenge (6324655) **5.00** Inside the Senior PGA Tour (1379487) **5.30** Full Throttle (4182723)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Trans World Sport (45228375) **1.00** Tight Lines (63228185) **2.00** Bobby Charlton's Soccer Scrapbook (64453777) **3.30** Midnight League (86737832) **4.30** Futbol Mundial (97614203) **5.00** World Windsurfing (65414845) **5.30** Trans World Sport (35578512) **6.30** Golf: Buick Challenge — Live (48645048) **8.30** Golf: German Masters (35554932) **10.00** Wrestling (29118048) **12.00** Close

EUROSPORT

6.00am Motorcycling: Australian Grand Prix Qualifying — Live (8813777) **8.15** Cross-Country Rally World Cup (977883) **8.45** Motorcycling: Australian Grand Prix Qualifying (7634999) **10.00** Football: UEFA Cup (39999) **12.00** Motorcycling: Australian Grand Prix Qualifying (85970) **1.30pm** Mountain Biking (16406) **2.30** Canoeing: Slalom World Championships (72406) **4.00** Tennis: Swiss Indoor (3481777) **9.00** Showjumping: German Classics — Live (86951) **10.00** Motorcycling: Australian Grand Prix Preview (96338) **11.00** Jump the Bus! (61154) **11.30** Windsurfing (50609) **12.00** Cross Country Rally World Cup (52452) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Rentaghost (6425425) **7.35** Neighbours (8399864) **8.00** Crossroads (9152512) **8.25** EastEnders (3127951) **9.00** The Bill (1606357) **9.30** Howards' Way (4487681) **10.00** In Loving Memory (8191135) **10.30** The Sullivans (1695241) **11.00** Boon (65154796) **12.05pm** Crossroads (57602154) **12.30** Neighbours (4498777) **1.00** EastEnders (2580767) **1.35** Two Ronnies (6265376) **2.35** After the Show (9198988) **2.50** Are You Being Served? (4539845) **3.30** The Bill (9796116) **4.00** Casualty (62023319) **5.05** EastEnders (8090609) **5.40** Bob's Full House (7846574) **6.20** Two Ronnies (4484067) **7.20** Russ Abbot (2225715) **7.50** Home to Roost (1635512) **8.20** Brush Strokes (1034796) **9.00** The Bill (1818845) **9.30** Minder (89420154) **10.35** Rosie (1834951) **11.25** Softly, Softly: Task Force (8640661) **12.20am** It's a Knockout (47885083) **1.25** Survivors (5955075) **2.25** Shopping

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am El Uncut (7883067) **6.30** Beadle's About (3245715) **7.00** Coronation St (5608574) **7.30** Families (5625609) **8.00** Surprise Surprise (6353845) **9.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (7692715) **10.00** Mission Impossible (5614598) **11.00** Hawaii Five-O (5634357) **12.00** Coronation St (4770406) **12.30pm** Families (2828593) **1.00** Blind Date (2823048) **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (3238796) **3.00** Beadle's About (5082241) **3.30** Surgical Spirit (5584086) **4.00** Mission Impossible (3090999) **5.00** Hawaii Five-O (5073593) **6.00** Families (5573970) **6.30** Coronation St (5554222) **7.00** Blind Date (1288512) **8.00** Mission Impossible (1275932) **9.00** Coronation St (3089993) **9.30** The Comedians (2848357) **10.00** Hawaii Five-O (1288883) **11.00** Close

Joe Pesci and Robert De Niro in *Casino* (Movie Channel, 10.00pm)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Dumbo (49890) **6.30** Lamb Chop (77999) **7.00** Chip 'n' Dale (25837) **7.30** Quack Pack (67864) **8.00** Dinosaurs (13116) **8.30** Bonkers (45715) **9.00** Gummi Bears (36067) **9.30** Grounding Marsh (9884929) **9.55** Poddington Peas (4742864) **10.00** Sesame Street (83048) **11.00** Winnie the Pooh (9040390) **11.15** Rosie and Jim (2444804) **11.40** Sing Me a Story (3692339) **12.00** Tots TV (16203) **12.30pm** Big Garage (27305226) **12.45** Winnie the Pooh (36850131) **1.00** Sesame Street (71628) **2.00** Amazing Animals (2116) **2.30** Care Bears (2889) **3.00** Tale Spin (4951) **3.30** *Goof Troop* (4628) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (9135) **4.30** Aladdin (9319) **5.00** Gargoyles (8796) **5.30** Dinosaurs (3999) **6.00** Nightmare Ned (3512) **6.30** Wonder Years (4864) **7.00** Wayne Manifesto (6932) **7.30** FILM: **Legend of the Lost Tomb** (1995) (63680) **9.00** Second Noah (31425) **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Delfy (8088512) **6.30** Billy the Cat (2484970) **7.00** Pinocchio (6427241) **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo (6413048) **8.00** Beetleborgs (1409796) **8.30** Masked Rider (1408067) **9.00** Magic Box (1499319) **9.30** Dudley (9849703) **10.00** Inspector Gadget (2475222) **10.30** Samurai Pizza Cats (1488203) **11.00** Sweet Valley High (6422796) **12.00** Ace Ventura (1402883) **12.30pm** Casper (1544339) **1.00** The Tick (5426512) **1.30** Iron Man (6493280) **2.00** Fantastic Four (4191135) **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo (7777883) **3.00** Beetleborgs (4103970) **3.30** Masked Rider (7789628) **4.00** Ace Ventura (7788135) **4.30** Casper (7764319) **5.00** The Tick (4115715) **5.30** X Men (7788990) **6.00** Spiderman (7778512) **6.30** Sweet Valley High (7789954).

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After (52154) **6.30** Bobby's World (40845) **7.00** Spirou (71203) **7.30** Dennis the Menace (90338) **8.00** Batman (19390) **8.30** Bots Master (18661) **9.00** Art Attack (32241) **9.30** Earthworm Jim (45203) **10.00** Gravedale High (64425) **10.30** Flash Gordon (38425) **11.00** Creepy Crawlers (97593) **11.30** Gigantor (98222) **12.00** Gravedale High (29777) **12.30pm** Bots Master (56319) **1.00** Batman (70574) **1.30** Eek the Cat (48390) **2.00** Creepy Crawlers (8390) **2.30** Flash Gordon (5357) **3.00** Sonic (7425) **3.30** Earthworm Jim (7574) **4.00** Dennis the Menace (6809) **4.30** Art Attack (5593) **5.00** Close

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NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes (93280) **6.30** Aaahh!! Real Monsters (43319) **7.00** Hey Arnold! (74777) **7.30** Rugrats (86512) **8.00** Doug (89406) **8.30** Country Mouse and City Mouse (35628) **9.30** CBBC (44777) **10.30** Babar (90241) **11.00** Magic School Bus (53319) **11.30** Bananas in Pyjamas (50048) **12.00** Paddington Bear etc (81593) **12.30pm** Portland Bill etc (25425) **1.00** Dr Seuss (73048) **1.30** Little Bear Stories (24796) **2.00** Jim Henson's Animal Show (7406) **2.30** CBBC (5154) **3.00** CBBC (9241) **3.30** Aaahh!! Real Monsters/Doug (7999) **4.00** Hey Arnold! (6406) **4.30** Rugrats (5390) **5.00** Sister Sister (1086) **5.30** Sister Sister (9970) **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch (6883) **6.30** Kablam! (7135)

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing (1671661) **12.30** Ready or Not (4483845) **1.00** Madison (6114932) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (4482116) **2.00** Saved by the Bell (9754970) **2.30** Swan's Crossing (9719067) **3.00** Ready or Not (9740777) **3.30** No Naked Flame (9714512) **4.00** Saved by the Bell (9700319) **4.30** USA High (9799203) **5.00** Hangtime (9745222) **5.30** Sweet Valley High (9713883) **6.00** Blast (9710796) **6.30** Madison (9701048) **7.00** Hangtime (9765086) **7.30** USA High (9790932) **8.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm A-Team (9046390) **9.00** Burning Zone (9069154) **10.00** Tour of Duty (3069241) **11.00** FILM: **Truck Turner** (1974) (3034116) **12.50am** Leslie Nielsen's Unbalanced World (5800384) **1.00** Burning Zone (8050520) **2.00** Tour of Duty (3643029) **3.00** FILM: **Truck Turner** (1974) (8249617) **4.50** Leslie Nielsen's Unbalanced World (59913471) **5.00** Planet of the Apes (5474988)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

***7.00pm** Grace Under Fire (1222)* **7.30** Roseanne (3319) **8.00** Ellen (4870) **8.30** Cybill (6777) **9.00** Cheers (62883) **9.30** Taxi (74131) **10.00** Monty Python's Flying Circus (92512) **11.00** Paramount Presents (278425) **11.25** Robin (161796) **11.30** Nightstand (56883) **12.00** Soap (65926) **12.30am** Pig Sty (26549) **1.00** Entertainment UK (82365) **1.30** Taxi (21742) **2.00** Roseanne (1751568) **2.25** Robin (7001617) **2.30** Ellen (39346) **3.00** Cybill (75029) **3.30** Cheers (53926) **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings (6860951) **9.00** FILM: **Psychomania** (1971) (12121203) **10.50** The Making of Spawn (9867680) **11.00** Friday the 13th (6998785) **12.00** Sightings (9170433) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (1773029) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (7118549) **2.00** Dark Shadows (8035181) **2.30** New Alfred Hitchcock (8021988) **3.00** Friday the 13th (1175617) **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am Simply Painting (1604999) **9.30** Garden Calendar (4485203) **10.00** Garden Club (9199777) **10.30** Room Service (1693883) **11.00** The House (1829951) **11.30** Graham Kerr (1820680) **12.00** Julia Child (1684135) **12.30pm** Two's Country (4498319) **1.00** This Old House (6127406) **1.30** Home Again (4488390) **2.00** Hammer it Home (9734116) **2.30** Antiques Trail (9715241) **3.00** The Restoration Game (9746951) **3.30** Furniture to Go (9727086)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Turning Points (9706593) **4.30** My Little Eye (9702777) **5.00** Connections 2 (9756796) **5.30** Jurassica 2 (9726357) **6.00** The Big Animal Show (9716970) **6.30** Wild at Heart (9707222) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (9739932) **7.30** Turning Points (9703406) **8.00** Scorpion (9059864) **9.00** New Detectives (8079628) **10.00** Medical Detectives (1685864) **10.30** Medical Detectives (1694512) **11.00** The Falklands War (6137883) **12.00** The Specialists II (2019810) **12.30am** My Little Eye (8371926) **1.00** Turning Points (7687029) **1.30** Connections 2 (8475520) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Samba: Rhythms of Life (4195951) **7.30** The Last Frog (7765048) **8.00** Wild! Life Adventures (7015406) **9.00** Fatal Game. Everest (7028970) **10.00** Price of Peace (7038357) **11.00** Tale of the Crayfish (6403661) **12.00** *30 Years of National* Geographic Specials (4237926)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm The Great Days of the Century (2278116) **5.00** History Encore (9273086) **7.00** Biography: Jack the Ripper (2052393)

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UK LIVING

6.00am Lucky Ladders **6.35** Lingo **7.00** Tiny Living **8.00** I Dream of Jeannie **8.30** Gordon Elliott **10.10** Jerry Springer **11.00** Young and Restless **11.50** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **12.20pm** Why Me? **12.50** Rolonda **1.40** Tempestt **2.30** Cheap Chic **3.00** Live at Three **4.05** Jerry Springer **5.00** Rolonda **5.50** Lucky Ladders **6.25** Heat Is On **7.00** Hearts Afire **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies **9.00** FILM: **A Small Killing** **11.00** Sex Life

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Film Deewane **8.00** Raahat **8.30** Positive Health **9.00** Yaadon Ki Baras **9.30** Tan Bhi Chup Mon Bhi Chup **10.00** Dasht **11.00** Zaike Ka Safar **11.30** Hasratein **12.00** Andaz **12.30pm** Raahat **1.00** Aujantey **2.00** FILM **4.00** ZEE Zone Presents **4.05** Kamal Kombination **4.35** Khel Time **5.00** Zone Time **5.25** Flu **6.00** Chutki Baja Ke **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Ikke Pe Ikka **7.30** Mast Mast Hai Zindagi **8.00** News **8.30** Parampara **9.05** FILM

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RUGBY LEAGUE 45

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FRIDAY OCTOBER 3 1997

Lack of motivation leads to retirement of world champion

Collins hangs up his gloves

By Nick Szczepanik
and Srikumar Sen,
Boxing Correspondent

EVEN in these post-Gazza days, it can be a surprise to see a grown man cry, the more so when the individual in question is the super-middleweight boxing champion of the world. Yesterday, at the Lonsdale International Sporting Club dinner held in a London hotel, tears welled in the eyes of Steve Collins, the holder of the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) version of that title, as he announced his retirement from professional boxing.

"I want boxing people to hear this first," he said, to cheers. "I was not stripped of my title [contrary to some reports on Wednesday after his withdrawal, through injury, from a forthcoming title defence against Joe Calzaghe]. I am still super-middleweight champion of the world.

"For the last 12 months, I've been having problems with motivation. A few years ago, super-middleweight was not only the most exciting division in boxing, but also the most talented and my ambition was to prove I was the best of all. For me right now [he paused, a hand drawn over his eyes] I've decided to retire." Then there was uproar, with sporadic outbreaks of applause and cries of "Reconsider!"

"I've no more ambitions to fulfil," he added, before choking back an audible sob and swaying off as if to the safety of a non-existent corner, returning to centre stage to reiterate his intention to call it a day.

It was not, of course, as clear-cut as that. It never is. As any number of boxers have proved, good intentions can be clouded by visions of another big purse, but, in the subsequent press conference, Collins was adamant that the only temptation to return to the ring would be the removal of the stumbling block to his ambitions that had forced him out.

"I'm not going to say 'never'," the 33-year-old Dubliner said. "I don't intend coming back — it wasn't something I said and didn't really mean — but it would have to be something really special. The only person I can think of would be Roy Jones [the World Boxing Council light-heavyweight champion]."

The failure to attract Jones, formerly considered the best super-middleweight and the best boxer, pound-for-pound, in the world, into the ring, even at the American's own weight, had been the focus of a year of frustration for Collins. "Jones ducked him continuously," Frank Warren, Collins's manager, said. "The challenge was there and he didn't accept it. If he was a great champion, he would have fought Steve."

If he had done so, he would have found a tough boxer, a throwback to the old days of the sport. The Celtic Warrior, as Collins liked to call himself, knew how to take a punch and give one, he could look after himself in the toughest of company. He learnt his trade in the United States under the Petronelli brothers — Pat and Goody — who managed and trained Marvin Hagler at Brockton, Massachusetts, and had his first 20 contests on the tough American circuit. He returned to Dublin in 1991 and continued to box at the highest level. He has only three defeats on his record and they were at the hands of world champions — Mike McCallum, Reggie Johnson and Sumbu Kalambay.

He boxed for Barry Hearn's Matchroom stable before moving to Warren. He won the WBO middleweight title in 1994 then moved up to super-middleweight for lucrative bouts with Chris Eubank and Nigel Benn. He beat both of them twice, Eubank on points, stopping Benn both times.

Looking back on his career yesterday, Collins said that he saw himself as the last of a generation of great fighters. "I've proved every point I've set out to in boxing," he said. "The old school is now finished. There's some great new talent there — in a couple of years, the division will be back at its best — but what's there for me doesn't appeal any more. I went through with my last two fights, but I didn't want them. I wanted the Eubanks, the Benns."

Instead, his next bout was due to be against Calzaghe, who was sceptical yesterday about Collins's announcement. "People like Chris Eubank have announced their retirement before and come back and I think he'll do the same," the Welshman said. Eubank, who will meet Calzaghe in Sheffield on October 11 for Collins's now vacant WBO super-middleweight title, was similarly circumspect, saying that the Irishman was "just being whimsical".

Collins said of those left to dispute his title: "I wish him [Calzaghe] and Eubank all the best. If there were more like Chris Eubank, I probably wouldn't be retiring. I could have taken another fight, for money, but that's not me. I go in to win. Going in half-hearted is when fighters get hurt. I'm happy that I'm getting out in my prime. Boxers walk out damaged. I'm healthy and lucky to be in that situation. I feel a very wise man to have got out."

Collins struggles to control his emotions after announcing the end of his boxing career in London yesterday. Photograph: Denzil McNeelance

Leading article, page 21
Lewis's challenge, page 42

United lose injured Keane for rest of the season

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

THEIR European Cup Champions' League tie against Juventus over and their triumph secure, Manchester United yesterday abandoned the damage limitation exercise with which they have attempted to shroud the knee injury to their captain, Roy Keane, and admitted that the damage was about as bad as it could be.

Keane injured the knee in a clumsy challenge on Alf Inge Haaland in United's FA Carling Premiership match against Leeds United at Elland Road on Saturday. Booked for the tackle, castigated because the injury was essentially self-inflicted, he left the ground on crutches and speculation has been rife ever since that the prognosis was grim.

United confirmed that speculation yesterday when they released a statement announcing that Keane would be admitted to hospital some time within the next month for a cruciate ligament operation, the same injury that sidelined Paul Gascoigne for so long.

"Roy Keane had an exploratory operation on Monday," a club spokesman said. "A small piece of cartilage was removed and it was also discovered that he would require a cruciate knee ligament operation. That will be performed in approximately four weeks, when the swelling has gone down. He will be out for the rest of the season."

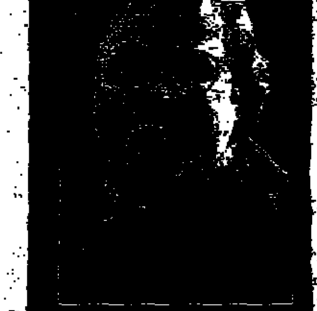
The news, though tempered by the realisation that they still beat Juventus 3-2 without the man who has been their outstanding player so far this season, is a bitter blow to United's hopes of fending off the challenges to their domestic championship and to their ambitions of winning the European Cup. Keane, with his box-to-box runs, his fierce tackling and his inspirational leadership, is not a player easily replaced.

"It is a great disappointment to lose such an important player for such a long time," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said yesterday, "but we have no fears about the long-term situation. We have absolutely no doubt that Roy Keane will be back for the start of next season."

United help Hoddle, page 44
Asprilla's injury, page 44

Tomorrow in THE TIMES
FOOTBALL SATURDAY

DANNY BAKER
on Keegan's dramatic return at Fulham

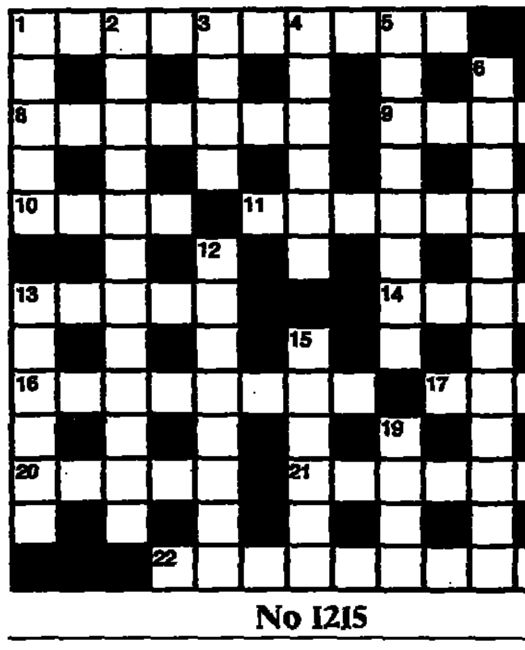


STEVE McMANAMAN
on a recall to the England fold

GRAEME LE SAUX

talks to Oliver Holt
Under the skin of sport

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1215

ACROSS
- 1 King John's concession (5,5)
- 8 Abusing: iron fence (7)
- 9 Loathe (5)
- 10 A mix-up: reheated dish (4)
- 11 Possible to achieve (8)
- 13 Soup, stock (5)
- 14 Nursery item: crazy (5)
- 16 Pull wool over (one's) eyes (8)
- 17 Period; name (4)
- 20 Ill-defined (5)
- 21 Citizen of borough: Guy —, spy (7)
- 22 Without protection (10)

DOWN
- 1 Walk in step; frontier (5)
- 2 Thomas —, landscapist/portraitist (12)
- 3 Line of reference, of rotation (4)
- 4 Made a case (6)
- 5 Church wing (8)
- 6 One fights unyieldingly to it (3,6,3)
- 7 Avaricious (6)
- 12 Noodle dish: *how — mince?* (*anag.*) (4,4)
- 13 Conduct oneself (well) (6)
- 15 Incompetent (to) (6)
- 18 Pondered (5)
- 19 Encourage (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1214

ACROSS: 1 Contiguous 8 Faction 9 Imply 10 Airy 11 Crescent 13 Ritual 15 Colour 17 Cocktail 18 Dado 21 Defoe 22 Species 23 Los Angeles

DOWN: 2 Occur 3 Twig 4 Gantry 5 Omission 6 Supremo 7 Mysterious 8 Fratricide 12 Mattress 14 Tactful 16 Wilson 19 Alive 20 Gene

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Ballesteros not slow to boil over

By John Hopkins
Golf Correspondent

HOW short-lived fame is. Four days after captaining Europe to an historic victory in the Ryder Cup in Spain, Severiano Ballesteros was furious yesterday at being reprimanded by tournament officials for slow play at an event in Germany.

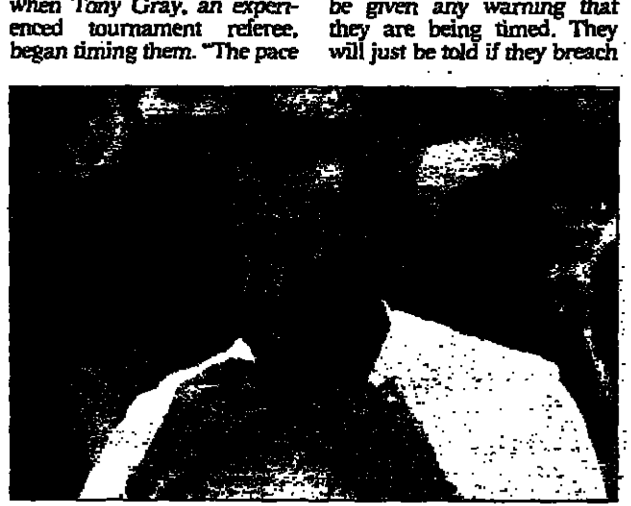
Sunday at Valderrama might have been a year away for all it meant to Ballesteros. The first man from mainland Europe to play in and captain winning Ryder Cup teams was beside himself with anger after being warned for taking too long over a putt near the end of his first round in the Linde German Masters.

Ballesteros believes there is a conspiracy against him by officials of the PGA European Tour. "This has been going on for the last half-year," he said. "There is always someone on top of me. It has happened every week and I am fed up with it. Maybe I have to go somewhere else to play."

Ballesteros, Tom Lehman and Sven Struver had fallen 30 minutes behind schedule and were one and a half holes behind the group in front when Tony Gray, an experienced tournament referee, began timing them. "The pace of play has been extremely slow because of the conditions," David Probyn, the tournament director, said. "All the players were handed a pace-of-play notice on the first tee. It states that they will not be given any warning that they are being timed. They will just be told if they breach the rule. If they breach it a second time, they will be fined £500 and given a one-stroke penalty."

On the 16th green, Ballesteros took 55 seconds for a putt, 15 seconds more than the time allowed. As he walked off the 17th tee, he was warned by Gray that he had breached the pace-of-play rule. Ballesteros said he was so upset that he hit his second shot into a pond by the side of the 18th green, which cost him a six for a 74, two over par.

"I think Tony Gray should do something else," Ballesteros said. "He is not qualified. I birdied 14 and 15 and made a tremendous four on 16 where I had to pull away from a five-foot putt because of the cameras and because somebody was moving. Then, as we came off the 17th tee, he made this bad statement. It's terrible. This guy should be retired."



Ballesteros was furious after being warned for slow play

Langer leads, page 45

Super League develops tartan tendency

Christopher Irvine on why Paris may prove no match for Glasgow

RUGBY league might belong to Glasgow from next year, or at least the Anglo-Australian franchise that has operated as Paris Saint-Germain for the past two Super League seasons.

There has been an expression of interest, too, by Hibernian Football Club, to base a team in Edinburgh from 1999, but the idea of a Super League outpost in Scotland may be hurried through in time for next season because of concerns about the continued viability of the Paris operation.

Glasgow City Council has been actively involved in proposals to locate a team at Partick Thistle, where the football club has agreed to alternative use of the ground in the summer. Two Scotland international matches staged there in the past year created modest interest.

Without financial guarantees, the Rugby Football League (RFL) was reluctant to start up a new club immediately, but pressure from the Super League's £87 million backers to spread the base of the game, and the Paris club's failure to make an impact on the French public and media, could result in its resources being diverted to a Scottish franchise.

Unless the French Federation can convince the RFL that it can run Paris successfully, Super League is set to uproot from France. Cardiff is another possibility, but with Perth Reds going out of business this week, and Hunter Mariners, who play at Wigan tonight in the world club championship, also on the verge of extinction, Australians, rather than Scotsmen or Welshmen, will comprise any new team.

The Australian influence has twice helped Paris to remain in the top flight. From the high point of the team's launch, in March 1996, when a crowd of 17,873 arrived to witness them beat Sheffield Eagles, attendances at the Charlety Stadium have dwindled at the same rate that French players have departed the club, and the novelty value of rugby league in a strange city has worn off.

The irony is that Oldham, among the game's founders in 1895, could fold after their Super League relegation. The club has £1 million in debts and faces a walkout by players who have not been paid for seven weeks.

Wigan showdown, page 45

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